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**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**FOR THE**

**SWORD EXERCISE**

**OF THE**

**CAVALRY.**

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Great Britain and Ireland. Army Cavalry.

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RULES AND REGULATIONS



YARD

Cavalry

By His Majesty's Command.

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*Adjutant General's Office,*  
*1st December, 1796.*

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FOR THE

## SWORD EXERCISE

OF THE

## C A V A L R Y.

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1800. 1800. 1800.

THE HISTORY OF  
RUSSIA AND POLAND

1801

A WORLD HISTORY



BY THOMAS

1800.

1800.

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1800.

*Adjutant General's Office,  
1st December, 1796.*

THE following Rules and  
Regulations for the Sword Exercise, are,  
by His MAJESTY's Command, to be  
observed and practised by the Cavalry  
Corps in general, in His MAJESTY's  
Service.

*By Command of Field Marshal,  
His Royal Highness  
The DUKE of YORK.*

WILLIAM FAWCETT,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL.

*bio* adult *griseofolii* *AT*

[ iii ]

## INTRODUCTION.

IT is His MAJESTY's pleasure that the use and exercise of the Sword shall in future be regularly taught at the drills of the Cavalry, as an essential part of the instruction of a horseman; and, in order to establish uniformity of execution on a proper system, the following regulations must be strictly observed.

The first principles are to be acquired and shewn on foot, under the direction of the adjutant, until such time as the squads are in a sufficient degree of forwardness to execute their lessons on horseback, when it will become the particular duty of the riding-master to instruct them in the mode by which horsemanship and the use of the sword are combined.

His

His MAJESTY's Regulations for the Formations, Movements, and Field Exercise, of the Cavalry, do not suffer the smallest alteration in the practice of this system, which is calculated to give the horseman, when acting singly, that decided advantage over an enemy, which horsemanship, and a conscious superiority in the use of his sword, must always produce.

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# RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE

## SWORD EXERCISE.

### PART I.

THESE Regulations for the management of the Sword are laid down under the heads of OFFENSIVE and DEFENSIVE, whether with respect to Cavalry or Infantry ; the whole being comprised in the following Movements :

I. OFFENSIVE, six Cuts.

II. DEFENSIVE against *Cavalry*, eight Guards.

III. The POINT as applied generally.

IV. The CUT and Guard against *Infantry*.

B

I. CUTS.

## I. CUTS.

THERE are only six ways of directing the edge of the blade; therefore the different parts of the body, which may be exposed by the unskilfulness of a swordsmen, are not to be (erroneously) conceived as admitting of so many distinct Cuts. The action of the wrist and shoulder alone directs the blade; and they admit but of six movements, from which every cut is derived, wherever may be its particular application to the body. Of the six cuts, four are made in diagonal directions, and two horizontally: the whole are equally applicable against cavalry, and may be directed on either side of the horse, but their application must depend on the openings given by the adversary, and be regulated by judgment and experience in the use of the weapon.

To make a Cut with effect, and at the same time without exposing the person, there are two points which principally demand attention. The first is, to acquire a facility in giving motion to the arm by means of the wrist and shoulder without bending the elbow; for in bending the elbow the sword-arm is exposed; a circumstance of which the opponent will ever be ready to take his advantage, as a cut in that quarter may be made with the greatest security, and, if it be well directed, with the most fatal effect, as it at once decides the issue of the contest. The cuts III. and IV. are particularly calculated to apply against the wrist.

The

The next object is to attain a correctness in applying the edge in the direction of the blade ; otherwise it will turn in the hand ; and as in that case the flat part must receive the whole force of the blow, it will in all likelihood be shivered to pieces.

From want of habit in the exercise of the wrist in the common occupations of life, the weight of the sword will at first be found extremely irksome. The action of the arm bears no comparison with that quickness of which the wrist is susceptible ; for the motions of the arm are so wide and circuitous, that they are easily counteracted ; from which, in a clear point of view, the strictest perseverance will be found necessary, in order to attain perfection in the first lessons ; which are merely confined to acquiring a suppleness in the wrist and shoulder ; as without this indispensable requisite, no person can become a good swordsman.

## II. G U A R D S.

OF the eight Guards against cavalry, five are for the protection of the rider and his horse in front, and three for the purpose of covering them, when under the necessity of retiring.

The principal position is distinguished from the rest by the term *Guard*, and the remaining seven by that of

*Protect.* The *Guard* covers the head, shoulders, and sword-arm, from the cuts I. and II. as likewise from those of III. and IV. requiring, however, in the latter, a trifling inclination of the arm downwards : It is not only a position which affords greater security than any other, but it is of such a nature as to render all the movements necessary to be made from it, easy, and of quick execution.

There are two other positions for the defence of the horseman in front ; namely, the *Left* and *Right Protect.* They consist simply in moving the sword-arm to the left and right of the bridle-hand. These guards are calculated to give protection equally against the thrust, as against the cuts V. and VI ; and either in making or receiving a charge, where the compactness of the body of cavalry does not admit of using the edge of the sabre, without danger to your own line. They are also well adapted in a moment of general confusion (which always takes place in the shock of two conflicting bodies) to afford a great degree of security, as by a quick transverse of the sword-arm, three or four times repeated from left to right, the blade can scarcely fail to meet whatever may be pointed in that direction, before it can reach the body.

The position generally known by the term *Hanging Guard*, protects the horse's head on the *near* side ; and on the *off* side, it is covered by a guard very much resembling the *Right Protect.*

The first of the three retiring guards is for the protection

tection of the bridle-arm, and left side to the rear ; the second for that of the right arm and shoulder ; the last, which is the *St. George*, concludes the eight Guards, and is intended for the protection of the back of the head. The Guards to the rear are equally simple and efficacious with those laid down for protection in front ; but the mode of carrying them into effect differs from the general principles of this system, as will appear from the drill exercise. Comparatively with the great variety of movements these Guards are calculated to meet, they are but few in number, and therefore more to be relied on, than when the defence depends on various circumvolutions of the blade, which, in the first place, cannot be performed within so short a time ; and, in the second, must ever be rendered more uncertain, from the difficulty of execution.

### III. *The P O I N T.*

THE *tburst* has only one mode of execution : whether applied to cavalry or infantry : but a greater degree of caution is required in its application against cavalry, than against infantry ; for if the *point* is parried, the adversary's blade gets within your guard, which is not to be recovered again in time, as with a small sword ; the weapon being too heavy to be managed with the requisite degree of quickness ; for which reason the point should seldom or never be given in the attack, but

be principally confined to the pursuit, when it can be applied with effect and without risk.

The case is different in acting against infantry, as the persons against whom you then direct your *point* are so much below your own level, that the weight of your sword is not felt; consequently it is managed with greater facility than with an extended arm carried above the level of the shoulder. Therefore, in many instances against infantry, the *point* may be used with as much effect as the edge, and with the same degree of security,

#### IV. *The CUT and GUARD against INFANTRY.*

IN that part of the sword exercise which relates solely to its application against infantry, there are three movements, the *point*, the *parry*, and the *cut*. The execution of the two latter movements differs from the mode laid down in the general rules for practice. This difference is occasioned by the relative situation of the contending parties.

A person on horseback is elevated so much above those acting on foot, that it is necessary for him to bend his elbow, in order to take a sweep to give his cut with effect; and this may be securely done, as the sword-arm is not exposed in the contest. Only the four diagonal

cuts

cuts can be applied against infantry : Cuts I. and IV. are made on the near side, and II. and III. on the off side of the horse. The thrust of a bayonet is parried, whether made on the near or off side, by forcing it backward or forward, as circumstances may direct ; only it is to be observed, that the parry is made with the back of the blade, instead of exposing the edge.

### DRILL ON FOOT.

**T**HAT a recruit may be more readily brought to comprehend the intention and object of the different directions in which he will be required to carry his blade, and at the same time in order to enable the drill officer to judge how far the motions are accurately executed, the recruit must be placed facing a wall, at the distance of six feet, but not so as to touch it with his sword when drawn.

Upon the wall, immediately in front of his position, describe a circle of two feet diameter, and full four feet from the ground; then draw two lines, which will divide the circle into four parts, each line being drawn diagonally; then a third line, forming an horizontal diameter: on the different points of those lines place the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, as represented in *Plate I.* fig. 1.

This will serve to convey the idea of that space which an antagonist would occupy in point of height; and the recruit is to direct all his movements to it, upon that supposition: the figures denoting the six distinct cuts of the sabre, which are to be applied in that given space.

His position must be erect, with his body square to the front, his head kept up, and eyes directed to the object before him. His heels two inches asunder, and

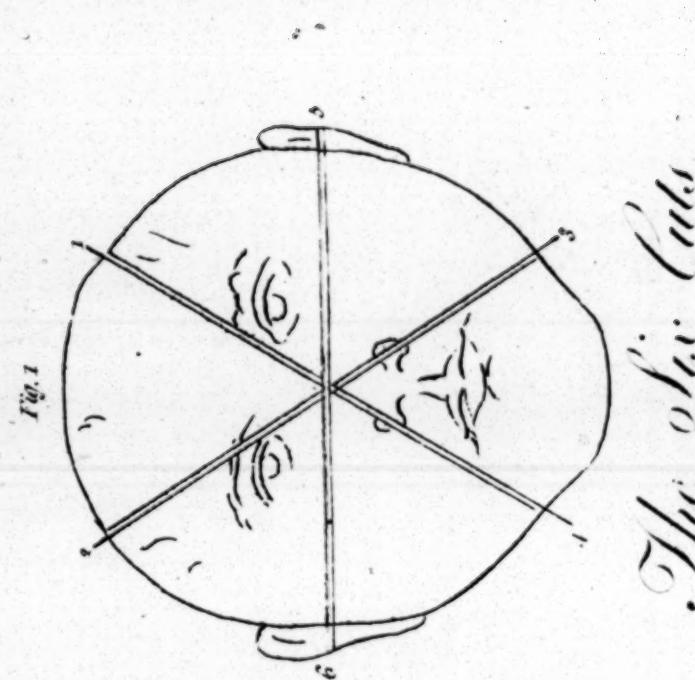


Fig. 1

This other cuts

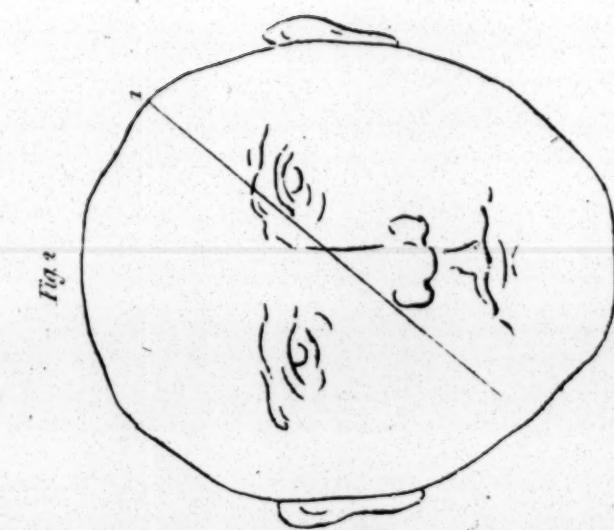


Fig. 2

Cut One.

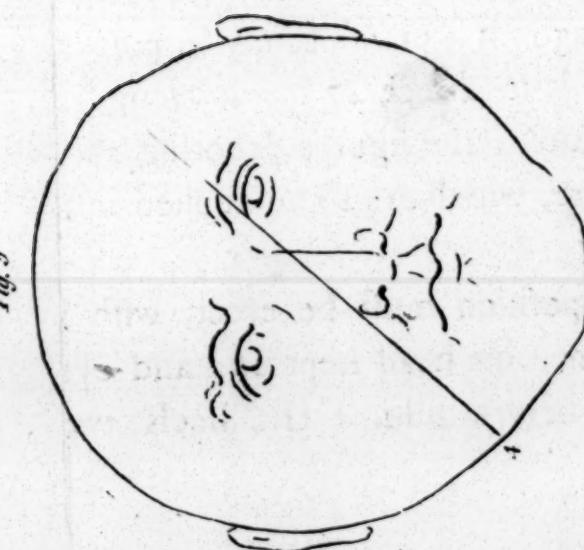


Fig. 3

Cut Two.

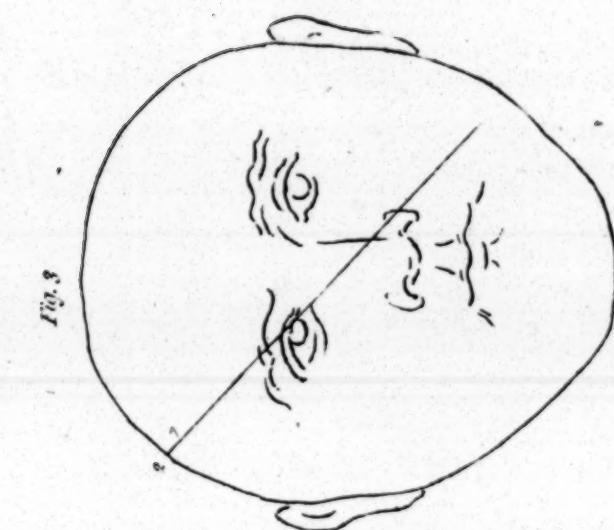


Fig. 4

Cut Three.

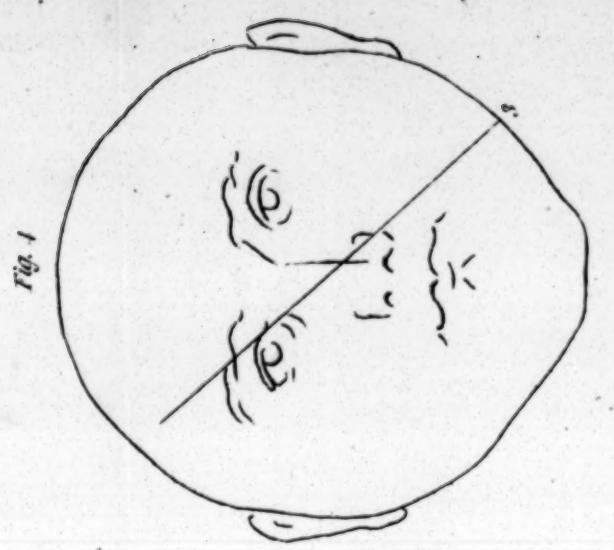


Fig. 5

Cut Four.

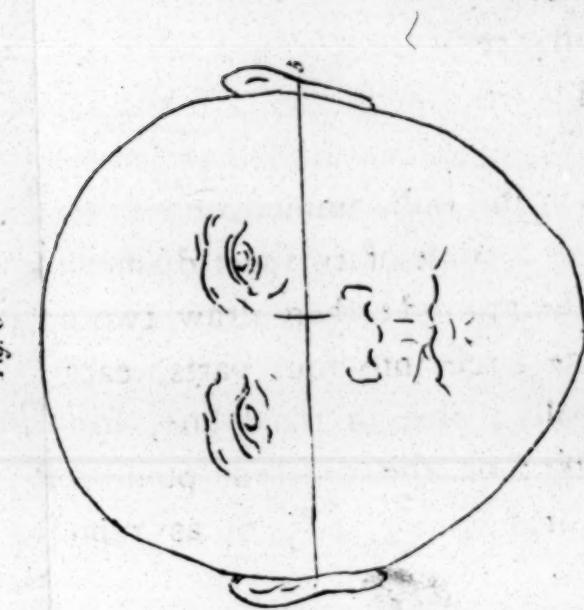


Fig. 6

Cut Five.

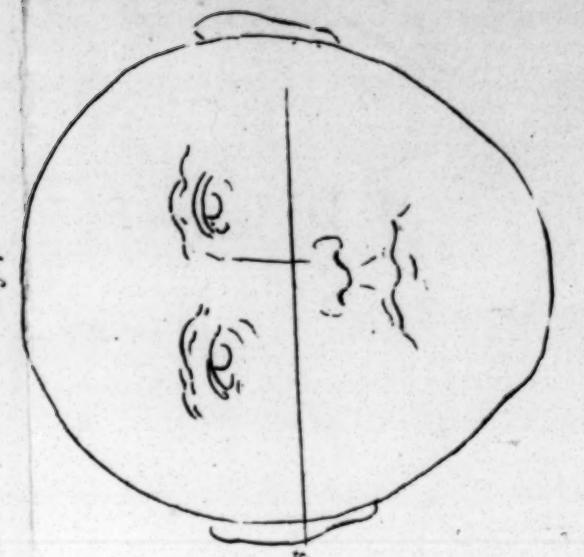


Fig. 7

Cut Six.

100 ft. above  
bottom of drift

DOA 701 Station 100 ft. above

and his arms hanging without constraint, keeping the points of his elbows back, his right hand flat on his thigh, his thumb to be on a line with the seam of his breeches; the left hand in the same manner, with his fingers on the scabbard to keep the sword steady, and in readiness to be drawn.

---

### SWORD-KNOTS.

NO sword must be made use of without having a sword-knot attached to it. It enables a person instantly to recover his weapon, if forced from his grasp; and in drills, prevents accidents which are liable to occur by the sword escaping from the hand, when not restrained.

The sword-knot is to be made of leather, not too thick, but capable of shaping itself to the wrist; yet it is not intended ever to confine the action of the wrist, which it would do if drawn tight; but it is to be of such a length as to admit of the sword-hilt shifting in the hand, which is necessary in giving point, and indeed in almost every movement in the exercise of the sword.

In whatever form the sword-knot may be worn, it is always to be loosened the moment a dragoon becomes mounted, in order to its being in readiness for use, whenever swords are required to be drawn.

---

### DRAW-

and guides. After this, turning his sword arm to his side, not far from his right arm, and so as to bring his hand to meet

### DRAWING of SWORDS.

**THE** sword will be drawn, and brought to the position in which it is to be *carried*, in three motions.

**Words of Command.** **Motions.**

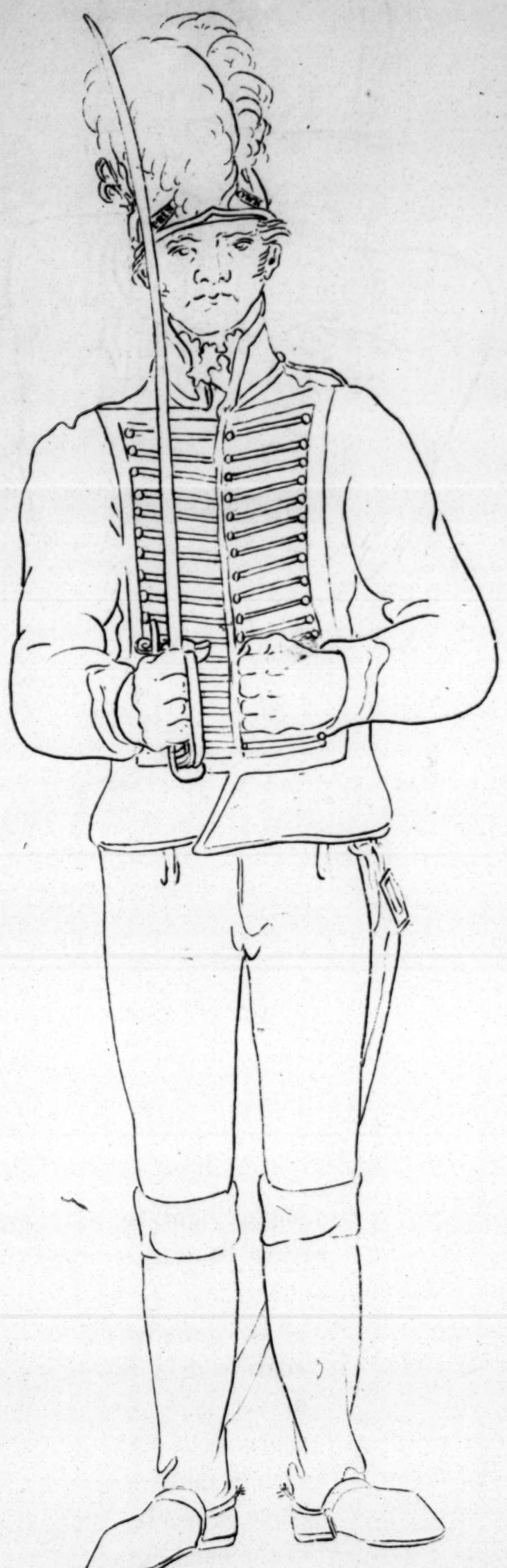
*Draw Swords.*

Upon the word *swords* being uttered, direct the eyes to the

1. sword-hilt, bringing the right hand with a sharp action across the body and over the bridle arm to the sword-knot, placing it upon the wrist, and giving the hand a couple of turns inwards, in order to make it fast, at the same time seize the hilt, and wait in this position for the second motion, which will be made by the fleugel man on the right, the back of the hand is to be to the rear.

2. Draw the sword from the scabbard with a full extended arm, at the same time sink the hand till the hilt of the sword is immediately under the chin, with the blade perpendicular, and the back of the hand outwards.

3. Bring the hilt down, to be in a line with the bridle hand, the elbow



*Carry Swords*

P. Clegg Comt.  
W<sup>th</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Dray<sup>r</sup> Del.

Engraved by S.J. Nodc



✓



RETURN



Slope & Swords.

[ 41 ]

Words of  
Command.

Motions. bow near the body, the blade perpendicular, and the wrist in a small degree rounded, which turns the edge inwards in the direction of the horse's left ear.

## SLOPING of SWORDS.

*Slope Swords,*

KEEP the sword-arm in the exact position, pointed out for the carrying of swords; but distend the second, third, and fourth fingers from the gripe of the sword, in order that the back of the blade may meet the hollow of the right shoulder, where it is to be supported with the edge directed to the front.

When in this position, the sword will be kept steady, and is to be without motion, at whatever pace the horse may be moving.

RETURN-

## RETURNING of SWORDS.

**Words of  
Command.**

**Motions.**

THE sword is always to be returned from the carried position, and not from the sloped. This is likewise executed in three motions, dressing by the right.

### *Return Swords. 1.*

Carry the sword-hilt to the hollow of the left shoulder, having the back of the hand outwards, and the blade perpendicular, without pausing. Drop the blade (but not the hand) to the rear close by the left shoulder, directing the eyes to the scabbard,\* in which the blade is immediately to be placed, and returned until the hand and elbow become in a line with each other, square across the body, and keeping the back of the hand directed to the rear.

2. Thrust the sword home into the scabbard, and loosen instantly the sword-knot from the wrist, keeping the hand upon the hilt.

\* By resting the blade upon the bridle arm, the point will easily meet the scabbard.





*Prepare to Guard*

P. Green. Corn<sup>s</sup>.  
13<sup>th</sup> L. Drago. Vol.

Engraved by S.J. Took.

Words of Command.

Motions.

- On the motion from the fleugel man, carry the right hand from the hilt with a smart action to the off side.
- 3.

### PREPARE *to* GUARD.

THIS is performed in one motion, and done by bringing the extremity of the sword-hilt up to the pit of the stomach, with the back of the hand outwards: the flat of the blade to the face, and carried perpendicularly. At the same instant, the bridle-hand must cross the body in a similar direction, and immediately under the sword hand, keeping the nails inwards and hand closed.

Let it be observed throughout the *drill* exercise, that each cut ends with bringing the sword back to its position in the *guard*, from which the recruit without waiting for any previous word from the drill officer, will come immediately down to the *prepare to guard*. This is to be continued as long as the motions are executed by a repetition of numbers.

It is when in this last position, that the drill officer will give his principal instructions on the mode of executing the movements following. It will ease the sword arm, that requires such relief; at the same time the constantly carrying

carrying out the arm to the *guard*, previous to every cut during this part of the exercise, will strengthen the elbow, and accustom the recruit to take a correct position.

shd No 30

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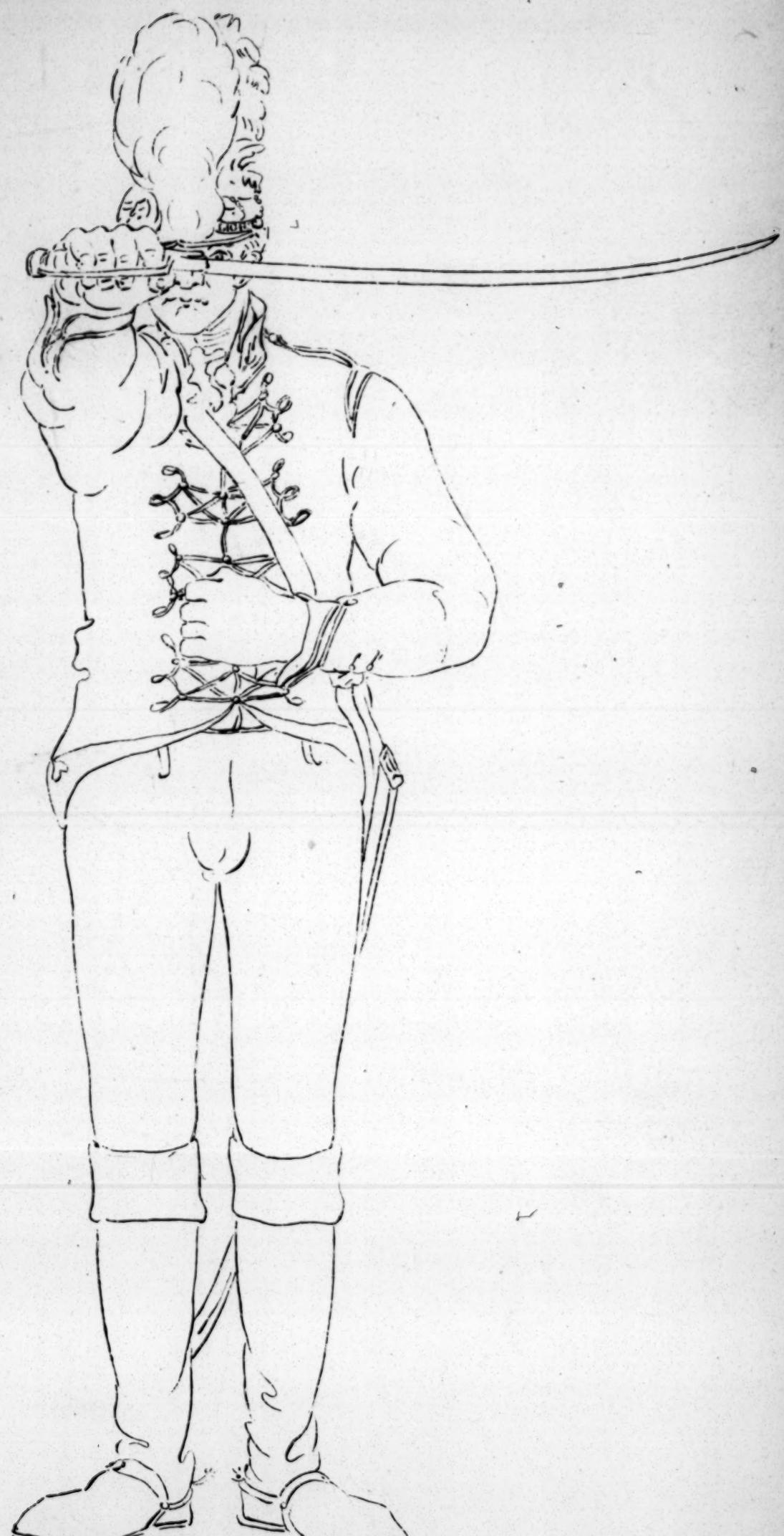
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## G U A R D.

FROM the motion to *prepare to guard*, the *guard* is done at once, by darting the sword hand forward with the same force, as in making a blow directed to the left ear of the opponent. This will cause the back of the blade to be towards the face; the edge of the sword should be turned in a trifling degree down, in order that the side-iron of the hilt may protect the wrist and under part of the arm. The sword to be kept nearly in an horizontal position across the face, the point carried rather above the level of the mounting, and in an exact parallel to the front.\*

\* It being impossible to hold a guard in the horizontal position, which will protect against both the under and upper cuts, there is a necessity of giving a decided protection from one or other, that the hand and eye may be relieved from the wavering and uncertainty which would be the result of choosing a medium: in this, the lower part of the arm being secure, the attention is chiefly directed to ward cut I. and II. an attempt to make which is easily perceived and obviated by turning up the side iron by a motion of the wrist.

The

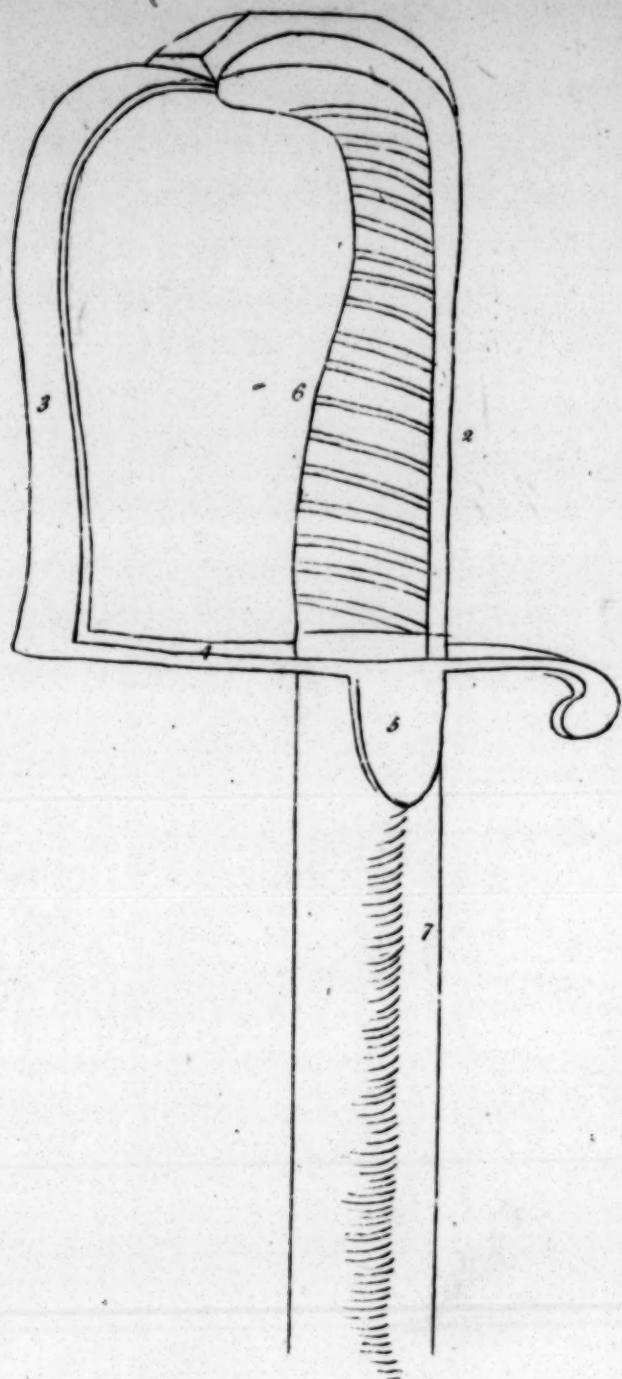


Guard.



The



*A Blade mounted with a Stirrup Hilt.*

- 1 The Head of the Back Plate
- 2 The Back Plate
- 3 Side Iron
- 4 Foot of the Stirrup Iron
- 5 The Pommel
- 6 The Grip
- 7 The outward Scabbard

The sight to be directed towards the antagonist, between the ear of the sword and the blade; the position of the blade is not to be altered for that purpose, but the edge invariably kept down as before directed; notwithstanding it has the effect of narrowing the focus, it occasions no impediment to the fight.

In this position the arm should be distended to the utmost, and of course the hand above the level of the shoulder: \* the bridle-hand always remains across the body, in the position of holding a bridle, except when the swords are sloped.

In the *Guard* the greatest attention must be paid to the correct position of the *hand*, which must always be directed to the left ear of the antagonist, notwithstanding

\* From this guard nearly every movement, offensive or defensive, can be made with rapidity and force, as the point being carried rather higher than the wrist, occasions a facility of execution in the commencement of a cut. It will therefore be found preferable to the hanging guard for a horse-man; for although the hanging guard may appear to afford a greater security against the first cut of an antagonist, yet it confines those who adopt it, either to give point in the attack, or to remain almost entirely on the defensive, at least till the adversary's blow has been received, or to make cut IV. which is the weakest, and except it can be directed at the elbow, the least eligible. None of the other cuts can be made without first bringing the blade up to the position here styled the *guard*; and the time thus lost in the motion, from the weight of the sabre, and difficulty of raising the point when so much below the wrist, induce a preference to be given to this guard, which is a central one, from which every requisite movement may be easily effected: and from which the hanging guard may, if necessary, be taken with the greatest celerity by dropping the point.

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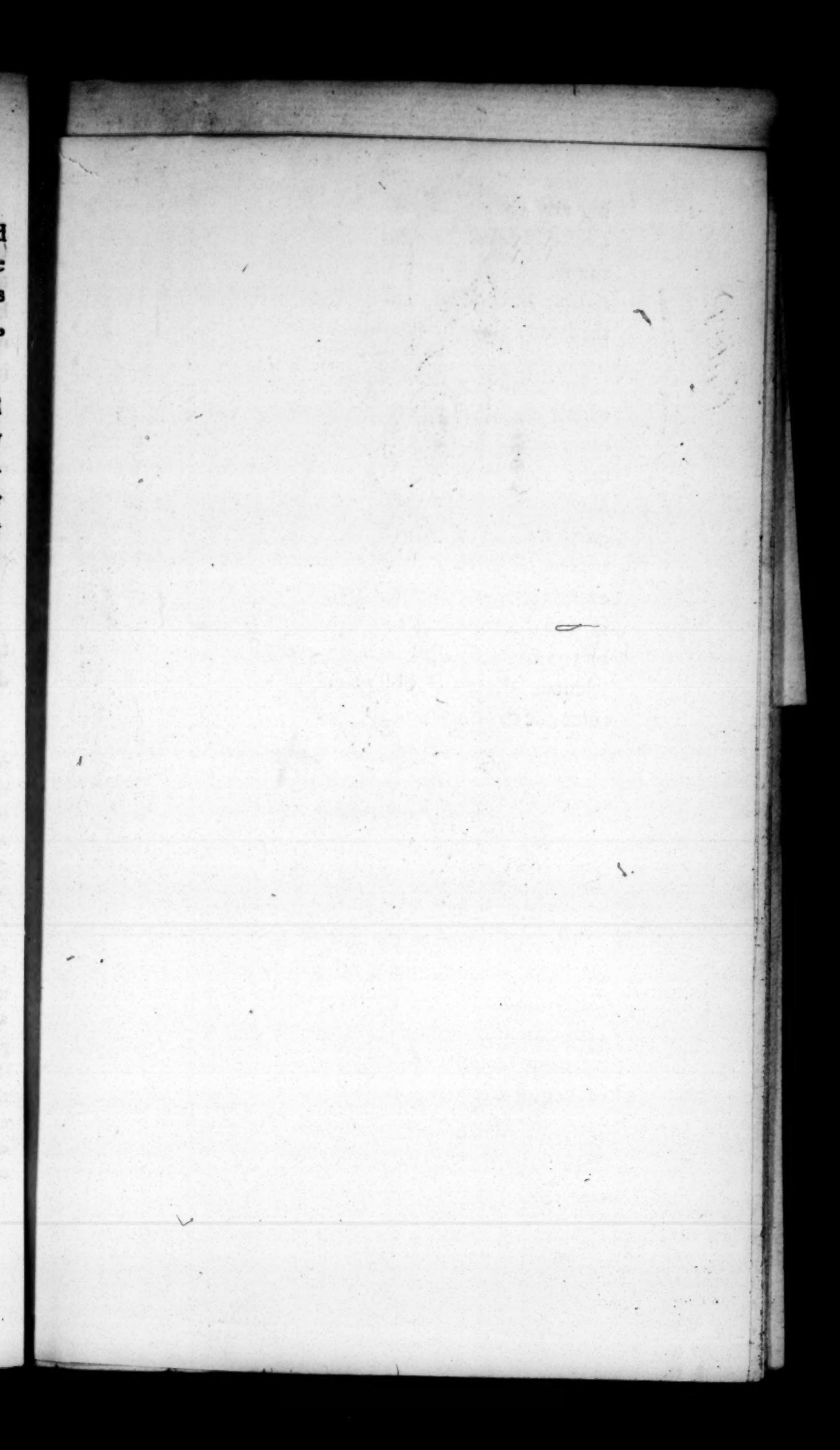
ing any change of position on his part. From a guard correctly taken there is no risque in attacking, because the sword hilt is immediately opposed to the antagonist's retort: but when a cut originates from a false position, the head by the first motion becomes exposed.

In opposing cavalry the arm becomes a pivot, round which the wrist wheels the sword independent of any other action but what may be derived from the shoulder: *care must therefore be taken, neither to incline the hand to the right or left of the given position, nor to sink it below the level of the antagonist's left ear; but above all not to bend the elbow:* these are faults which beginners are extremely apt to commit, and which expose the sword-arm to be completely disabled. The attention cannot be too often recalled to these most essential points in the science; the strict observance of which chiefly constitutes the excellence of the system.

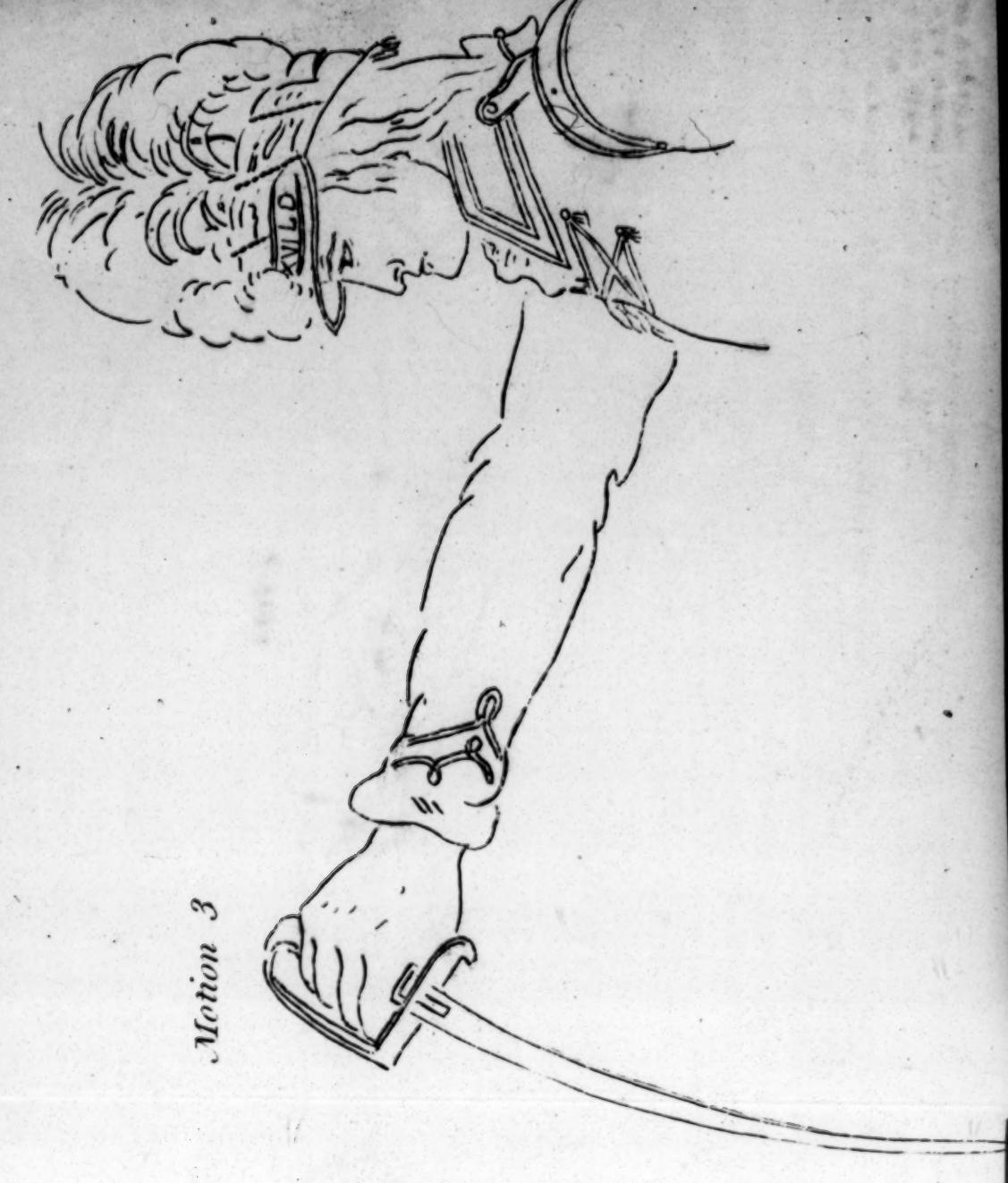
### C U T S.

We now come to the first Cut, in performing which the blade takes four distinct positions, which when perfectly executed, are not discernible, as the quickness of action in the wrist gives them the appearance of being only one motion: therefore to assist the comprehension of beginners, it will be necessary in the drill to distinguish the changes of the blade, by the separate pauses of 1, 2, 3, 4.

It



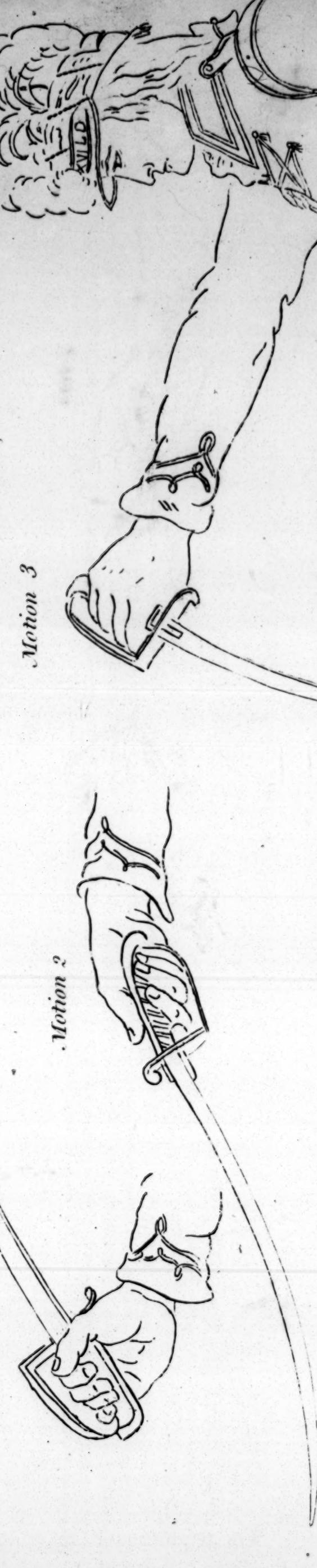
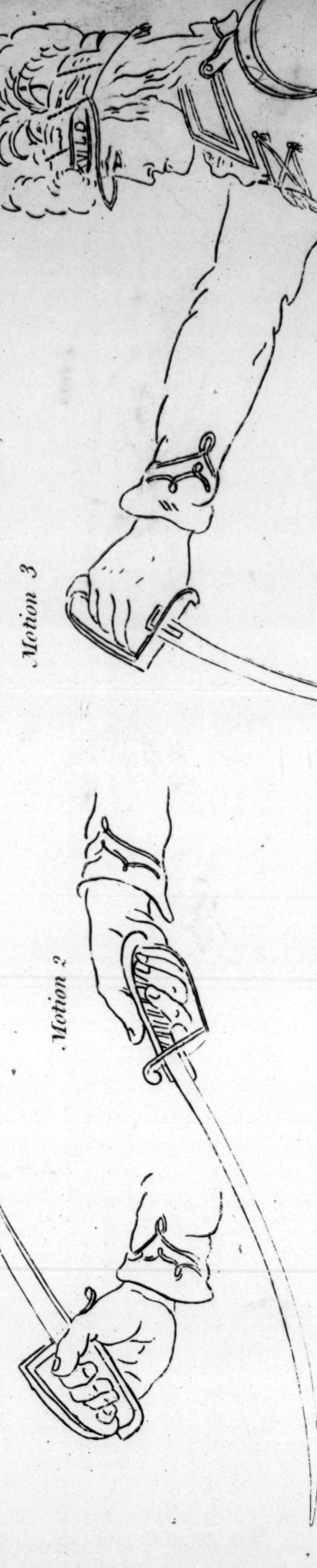
Cut 1.



Motion 1  
Motion 2  
Motion 3

Motion 1  
Motion 2  
Motion 3

Motion 1  
Motion 2  
Motion 3



13 Cut One has Two Motions.  
The 1<sup>st</sup> consists in raising the Blade towards the right shoulder & either a Step.  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Cut.  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> the first Motion in returning the Sword to the Guard.  
The 4<sup>th</sup> or last in rapidly throughout the Six Quis carries the  
Blade back to the Guard, subsequently is emitted in the Drums.

It is to be remarked, that the first motion in every cut consists in bringing the blade back to gather a sweep, at the same instant placing it in the direction in which it is to be applied, and the last motion brings the blade back to the guard. The plates (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,) describe the exact position of the hand, in the different motions contained in each cut.

Words of  
Command.  
Guard.

Motions.

Cut I. in four  
Motions.

FROM the *guard*, upon the word *one*, by the sole action of the wrist, draw back the blade, so as to bring the point in a perpendicular line with the outside of the right shoulder, for the purpose of making a sweep: taking care at the time, to turn the joints of the fingers in the same direction the cut is to be made, which will be in a diagonal course, as from 1 to 4. (*Plate I. fig. 2.*)

The recruit is too apt to sink his hand, or draw it from the guard, upon the first motion of the cut; attention must therefore be paid to his hand being steady, and always covering his head

C

with

**Words of Motions.  
Command.**

with the hilt of his sword, whatever changes of position his blade may take in performing the different cuts.

And it is to be considered as an invariable rule, that the direction of the finger joints regulates the edge of the blade.

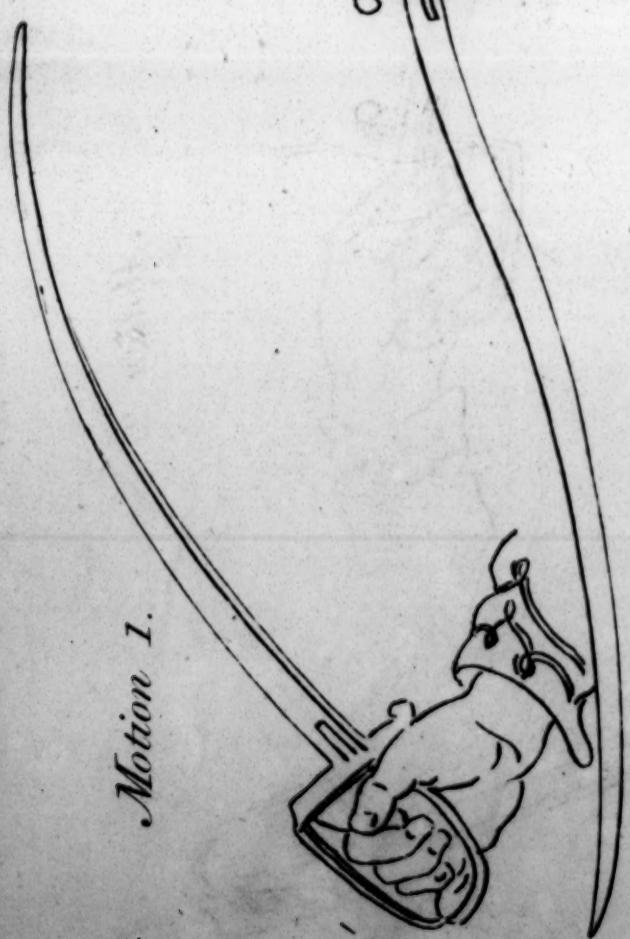
2. By a quick motion of the wrist downwards, with proper attention to direct the point to number 1, the blade will be conducted to number 4.
3. Turn the wrist inwards, dropping the point so as to bring the blade in a diagonal line across the body with the edge outwards.
4. Bend the back of the hand inwards, bringing the flat of the blade towards the face, and carrying on the motion of the wrist, till the blade arrives at its original position in the guard, taking care at the same time, that in raising the blade, it makes a sweep inwards just to clear the elbow of the bridle-hand.



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line

Motion 1.

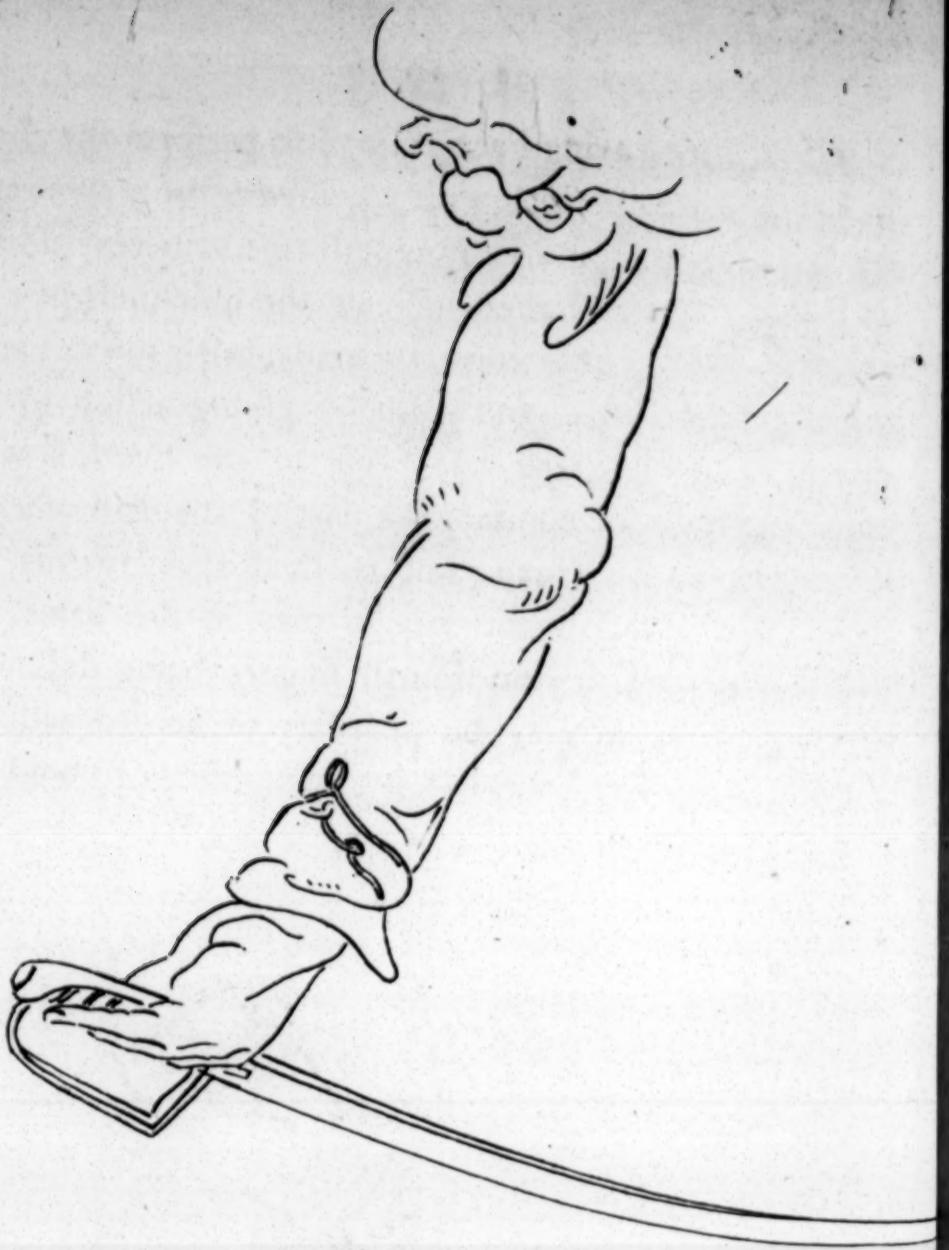


Motion 2.



Cut 2.

Motion 3.



Motion One consists in raising the blade  
towards the left shoulder.  
This is the Cut.  
There the first Motion in returning to the Guard.  
Four is the Guard.

The recruit having been trained to perform the above in four distinct motions with precision ; drop the repetition of figures, and let him perform them very slowly, as one motion, and then increase the quickness of execution, till the cut is correctly made, with force, carrying a proper edge, and without giving action to the elbow ; observing the same rule in the five following cuts. It must be constantly a part of the drill officer's instruction to his squad, not to hold their swords too tight ; but to allow the hilt to play in the hand, by the second, third, and fourth fingers being distended or contracted, as may be necessary to accord with the motion of the blade ; taking care invariably to hold the gripe firm with the fore-finger and thumb.

Words of Command.

Motions.

THE second cut is made upon the principle of the preceding one. The blade takes four distinct positions, and will, in the drill practice be treated accordingly.

*Guard.*

*Cut II. in four Motions.*

1. Upon the word *one*, retire the blade across the face, till the point becomes nearly perpendicular to the elbow of the bridle-hand.
  
2. By the action of the wrist conduct the blade in the diagonal

**Words of Command.** **Motions.**

line from two to three, (plate I. fig. 3.) observing in the execution thereof, all the rules laid down in the preceding lesson for conducting the edge and finger joints.

3. Turn the wrist to the right, till it has brought the back of the hand under, the nails of the fingers and inside seam of the right sleeve upwards; at the same time keeping a firm grasp of the sword with the fore-finger and thumb, relax the other three fingers, which will occasion the point to sink, and the blade to arrive in a diagonal position, similar to the line 2 and 3, with the edge outwards.

4. Turn the hand to the left till it brings the sword to its original position in the *Guard*, observing well, that in raising the blade, it makes a sweep round the right shoulder, clear of the head.



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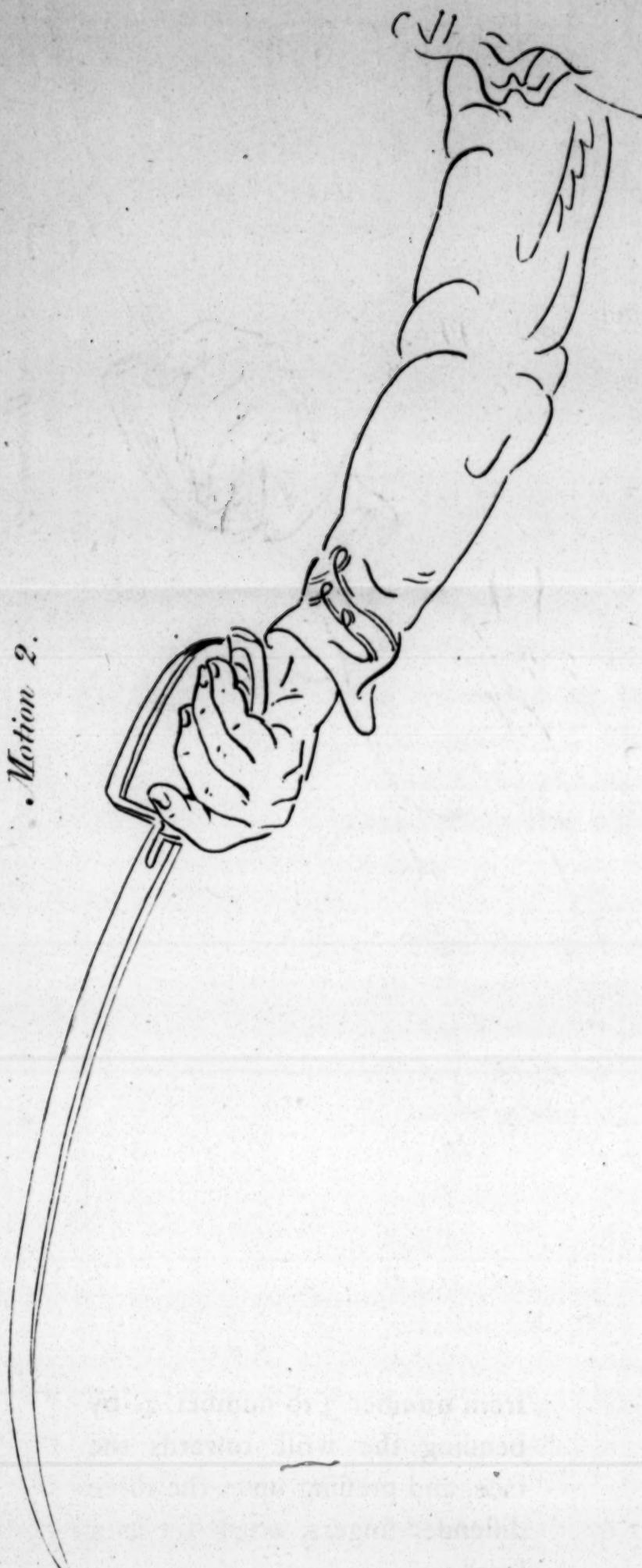
The

Cut 3.

Motion 1.



Motion 2.



Motion One overies the Blade round to the Right.  
Motion Two is the 1st.  
Three is the Second.

**Words of  
Command.**

**Motions.**

The next cut, viz. from fig. 3 to 2 (plate I. fig. 4.) is made in three motions,

*Guard.*

*Cut III. in three  
Motions.*

1. Drop the point outwards to the right, by turning the wrist in that direction, and relaxing the grasp of the three fingers of the sword-hand, keeping at the same time a firm hold with the fore-finger and thumb: this will bring the blade in a diagonal line, similar to the one drawn from the numbers 2 and 3, (plate I. fig. 4.) with the back of the blade towards the body.

2. Conduct the point of the sword from number 3 to number 2, by bending the wrist towards the face, and pressing upon the three distended fingers, which act as a lever.

3. Come to the original guard by turning the nails under, and back of the hand up.

Too much attention cannot be paid to suppling the wrist, and the drill officer will instruct his squad in the mode of doing so, which is

Words of Command.

Motions.

by a repetition of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> motions in cut III. several times successively without making any pause on either motion.

Every lesson should begin with suppling the wrist, and which must be frequently repeated during the hours of drill: in which practice the recruit will direct his attention to the steadiness of his arm, which is to be straight, keeping the hand above the level of the shoulder.

*Guard.*

*Cut IV. in three Motions.*

Cut IV. is likewise performed in 3 motions.—By turning the wrist to the left, it will drop the point in a diagonal line across the body, within three inches of the left elbow, and with the edge of the sword outwards.

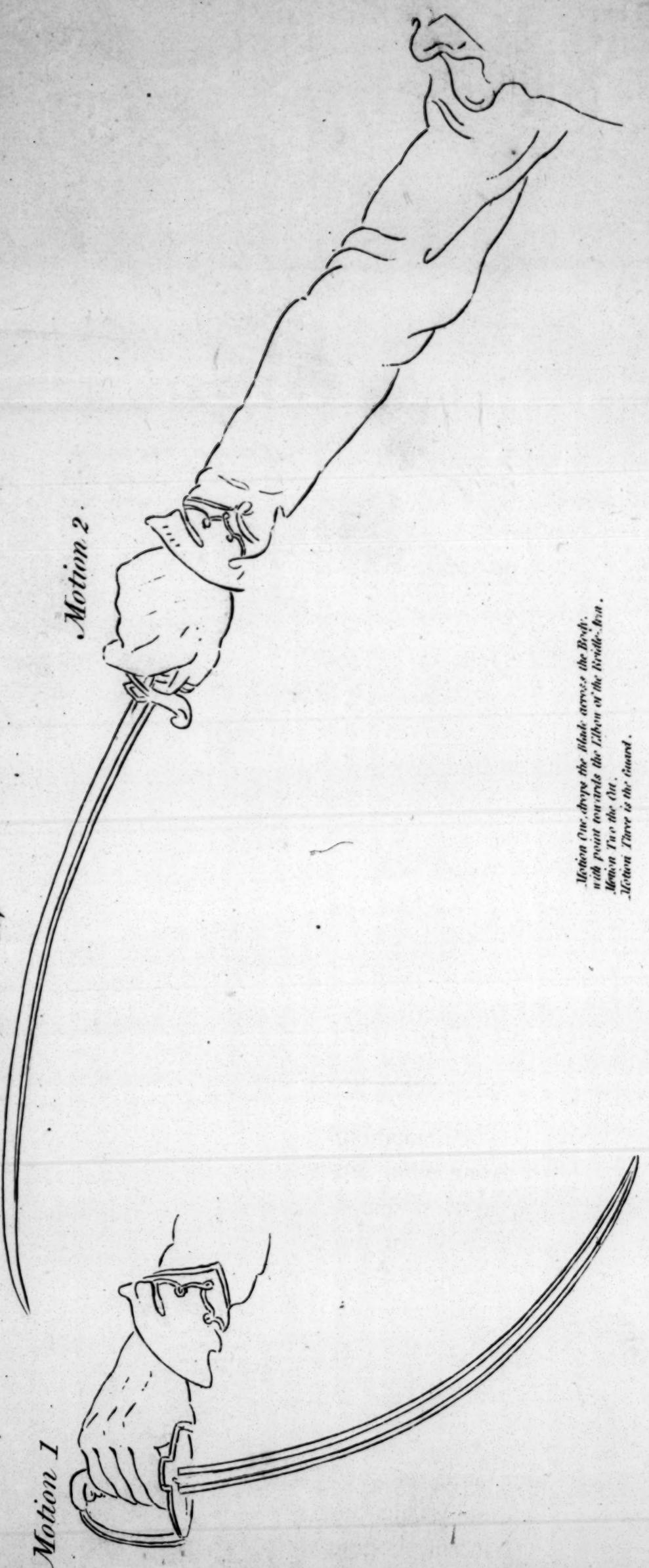
1. Carry the point from No. 4 to 1, (plate I. fig. 5,) diagonally by extending the hand in a direct line with the arm.

2. Turn the back of the hand outwards to the right, carrying on the motion of the blade till it arrives at the position of the *guard,*



Cut 4

Motion 1



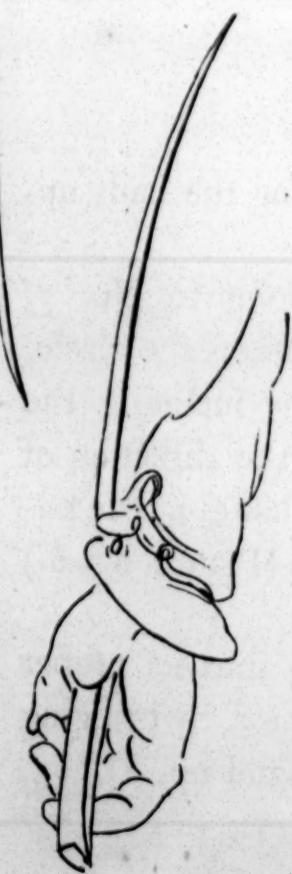
Motion One drove the Plank across the Body.  
with point you ards the Litter or the Kiddle-bone.  
Motion Two the Oar.  
Motion Three is the Guard.

[ 23 ]

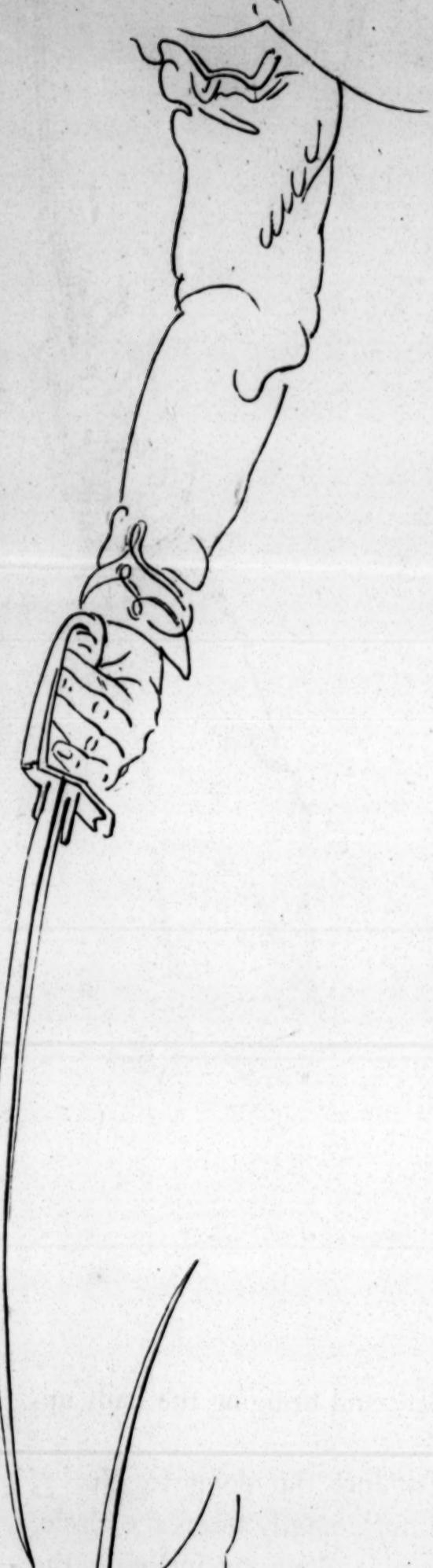


Cut 5

Motion 1



Motion 2



Motion One is striking the blade in a  
Horizontal direction to the Right.  
Motion Two is the Cut.  
Motion Three the Guard.

Words of  
Command.

Motions. *guard*, taking care that it does not go round the head or the right shoulder, which would make the motion wider than necessary.

The cut V. is made horizontally across the face, from ear to ear, and executed in three motions.

*Guard.*  
*Cut V. in three  
Motions.*

1. Carry the point of the blade round to the right, with the edge directed outwards, till it reaches a little below the level of the sword hand, and inclined towards the right shoulder. This is done by turning the back of the hand under, and bringing the nails up.
2. Conduct the point to No. 5, and horizontally across the circle, which is done by inclining the hand inwards in the direction of the cut, without changing the position of the nails. (Plate I. fig. 6.)
3. Turn the wrist into its proper position in the *Guard*, by bringing the back of the hand up.

Words of Command.

Motions.

Cut VI. has the same number of motions as the preceding one.

Guard.

*Cut VI. in three Motions.*

1. Retire the point of the blade within a foot of the left shoulder, finking it a little below the level of the sword-hand, which is done by an inclination of the wrist towards the face.

2. Conduct the point to No. 6, and horizontally across the circle to No. 5. (plate I. Fig. 7. by carrying the hand out in that direction, keeping the back of the hand still upwards.

3. Bring the blade in a sweep round the right shoulder, and clear of the head to its position in the *Guard*, by turning the back of the hand under, and inclining it outwards, till the blade is brought nearly to the head ; then turn the back of the hand to the face, and it will conduct the blade to the *Guard*.—*Slope swords.*

In the foregoing motions, the beginner is apt to carry his right shoulder too forward, and likewise to incline his head to the sword-arm. He may be allowed to do both in a small degree, but by no means to excess ; and

on

[ 25 ]



Cut 6.

Motion 1.



Motion 2.



Motion One consists in retiring the Blade towards  
the left Ear in a Horizontal direction.  
Motion Two is the Out.  
Motion Three is the Guard.

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wait  
cut.

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on no account should the recruit be permitted to proceed farther in the system than these six cuts, till he is perfect master of the preceding directions.

*Motion Two is the Cut.  
Motion Three is the Guard.*

THE manner of performing the six cuts singly being attained, the next object is to combine them, which will occasion some little deviation with respect to the mode of executing the second and fourth cuts, from the principles laid down in the preceding lessons; in which they are only treated of, as they are to be applied singly; but the whole executed together form a combined movement, which occasions the difference in the mode of practice.

In cut II. the sword is not to be carried round the right shoulder to the position to guard, immediately upon making the cut, but to be allowed to pause upon the third motion of the second cut; in which position the blade will be in the exact direction for performing cut three; and where it is to remain till the word is given for making that cut.

In cut IV. the change is in the second motion: where instead of bringing the blade to the guard in the third movement of that cut, drop the point to the right in the precise position of the first motion in cut V.; and wait there for the word from the officer to make that cut.

In combining the cuts, take care that cut II. is correctly

rectly made, it being a common fault with beginners not to carry the edge well in making that cut, in consequence of their allowing the sword hilt to turn in their hand, and not retaining that firm gripe with the fore-finger and thumb, which is indispensably necessary.— Wherever this fault occurs, the recruit must be brought back to the drill motions, and made to practise the cuts singly till perfect.

It must be obvious that the mode of executing the cuts two and four, according to the preceding directions, lessens the number of motions, and that each cut leads to the other, by which means, when the whole are quickly executed, the edge is carried with redoubled force, acquired by the velocity of action in the blade, in consequence of not being impeded in its course\*.

\* Whether the cuts are executed separately or collectively, that invariable rule of keeping the hand directed to the left ear of the antagonist must be adhered to, and care taken to avoid that error to which all beginners are liable, of carrying the sword-hand to the right of their head previous to making cuts 1, 3, or 5, which exposes them to a return of the same cuts before any regular position of guard can be recovered. Upon the same principle they should be cautioned against inclining the hand to the left, when intending to make cuts 2, 4, and 6.

It should be always remembered that the force of the stroke against a person on their own level, must be derived from the sweep of the blade, and not from the motion of the arm,

[ 27 ]





P. Garry Corn<sup>t</sup>  
L. Dray Dcl.

Left Protect

Engraved by S. N. de

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Words

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THE changes upon each cut necessary to a combined movement having been acquired, the recruit should be next taught to execute all the cuts quickly and as one movement; which in the course of future practice will be termed the assault.

---

### MODES of PARRYING.

WE now arrive at the different modes of parrying to the front: they are five in number, including the one already practised, under the denomination of the *Guard*.

The *left* and *right protect* are the two following motions, which will be performed succeeding each other, without coming to the *prepare* between the intervals of their performance.

#### Words of Command.

*Guard.*  
*Left Protect.*

From the *guard*, carry the sword-arm smart across the body to the left,\* raising the point of the blade, till it becomes perpendicular; keeping the hand above the level of the shoulder: at the same instant, place the thumb on the gripe, between the back plate and

\* The fight should always accord with the direction of the blade, and recruits be cautioned against that absurd practice of looking one way and acting another.

the

Words of Command.

the ear, (plate VI.) which will turn the edge of the sword to the right, and the back outwards to receive the cut, the arm to be kept as far from the body as the position will admit.

The elbow in this as well as in the next motion is to have no action whatever, as the whole must proceed from the shoulder and wrist.

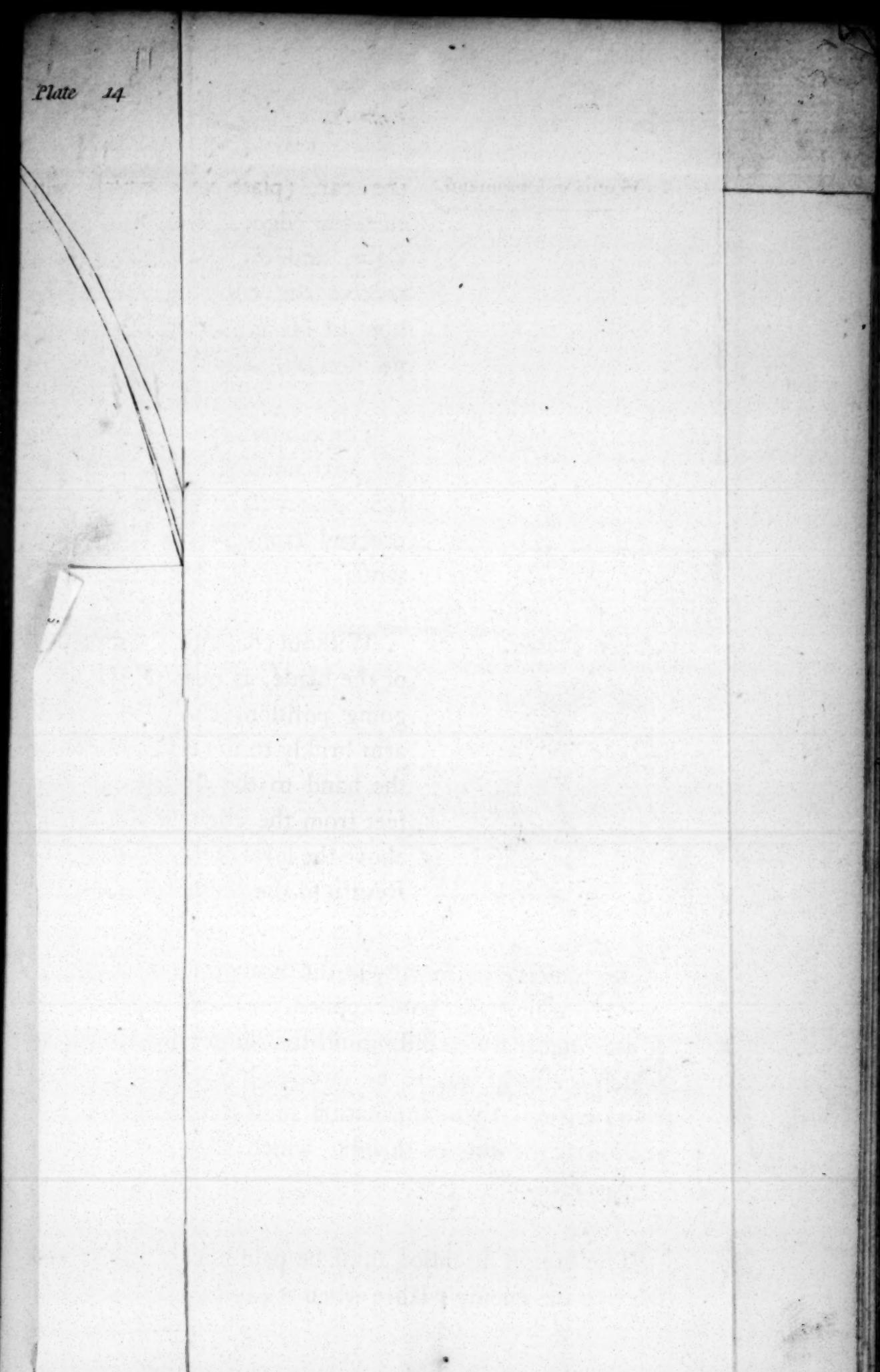
*Right Protect.*

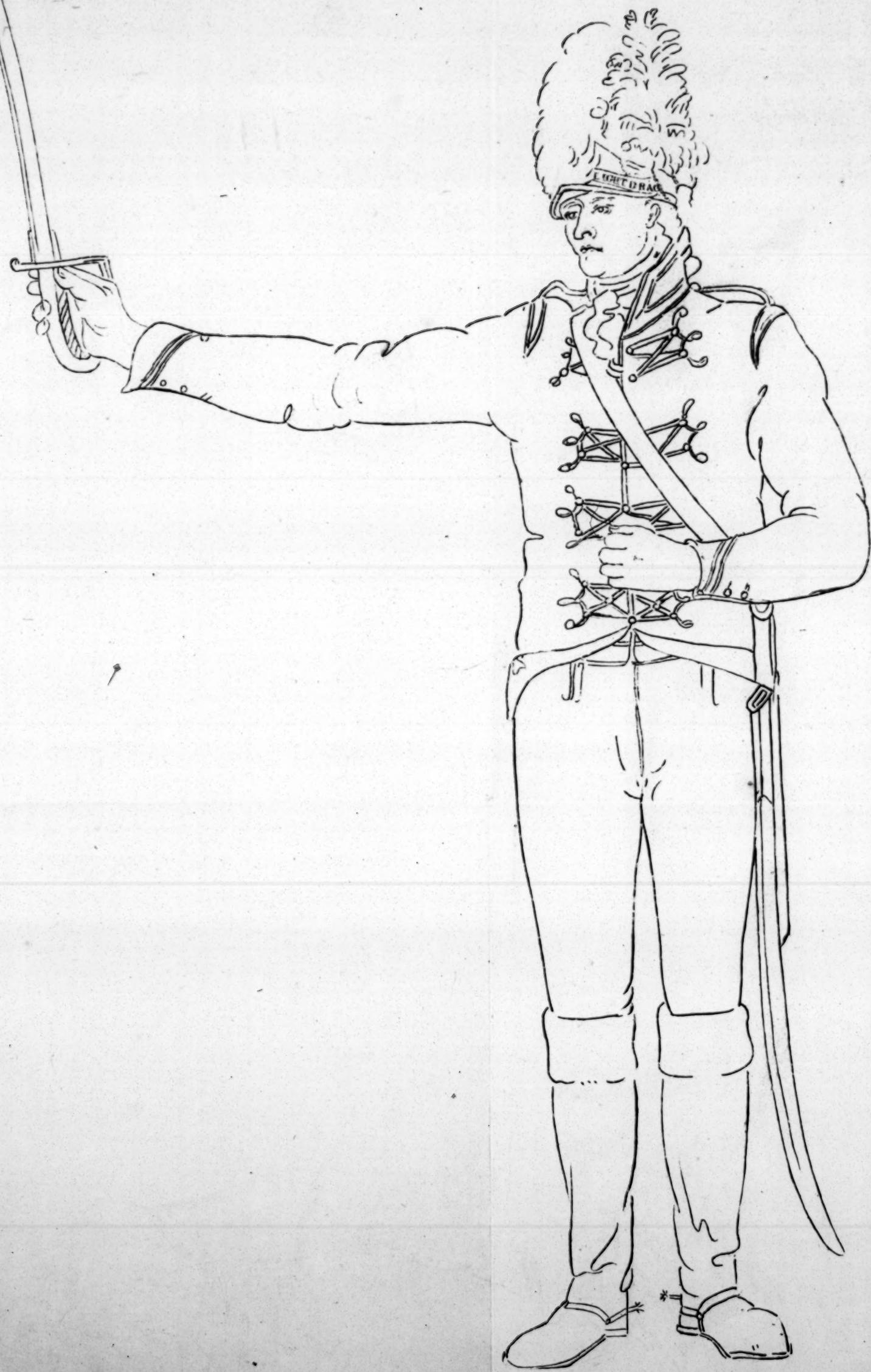
Without changing the direction of the blade, as held in the foregoing position, carry the sword-arm briskly to the right, directing the hand to the distance of two feet from the edge of the circle, above the level of the shoulder.— Return to the *prepare to guard*.

To preserve uniformity in the motions of *left* and *right protect*, which are both applied on the same principle, it was necessary to distinguish the immediate points to which the hand was to be directed; but when opposed to an enemy, their application must depend on the direction of the cuts or thrusts, which they are intended to parry.

The utmost attention must be paid not to oppose the edge to the enemy's sabre when it can be avoided; but the

Plate 14

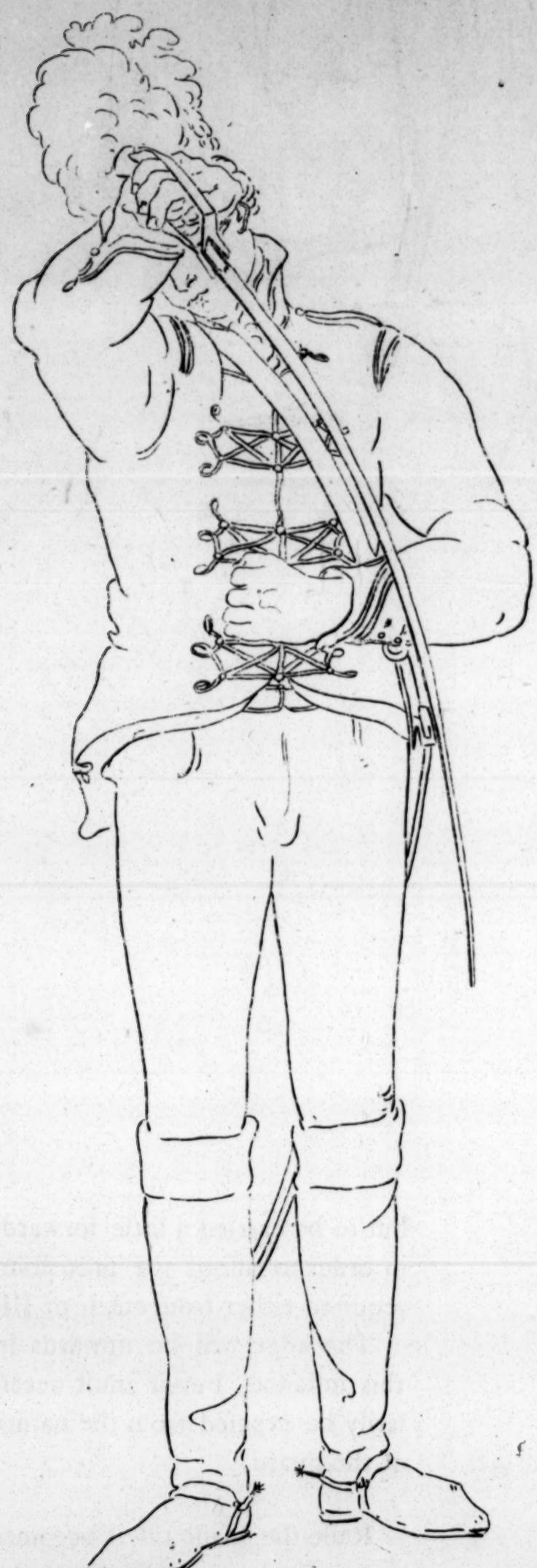




Right Protect



Right Protect



Horse near Side Protect.

the bevel: which can only be done, by placing the thumb between the back plate and the ear of the sword, and keeping it firm in that position, the arm to be properly distended, for the purpose of resisting the force of the blow.

The only difference necessary to be observed in coming to the *protect* from the *prepare*, in the place of the *guard* is, that before the hand moves to the position directed, the thumb must be shifted to the place on the gripe already described.

The two following motions are for the protection of the horse's head, at the same time with that of the rider.

Words of Command.

*Guard.*  
*Horse, near side*  
*Protect.*

Direct the point of the blade forwards to the left of the horse's head, and in a diagonal line from the hand, which is not to droop, but to be carried a little forward, in order to afford the protection required either from cut I. or III.

The edge will be upwards in this instance, but it must necessarily be exposed from the nature of the guard.

*Horse, off side*  
*Protect.*

Raise the blade till it becomes perpendicular, carrying it at the same instant in a brisk motion forwards to the off ear of the horse, and in the exact position of *right protect*;

Words of Command.

*protect ; not forgetting to place the thumb in the direction therein mentioned.—Return to the prepare to guard.*

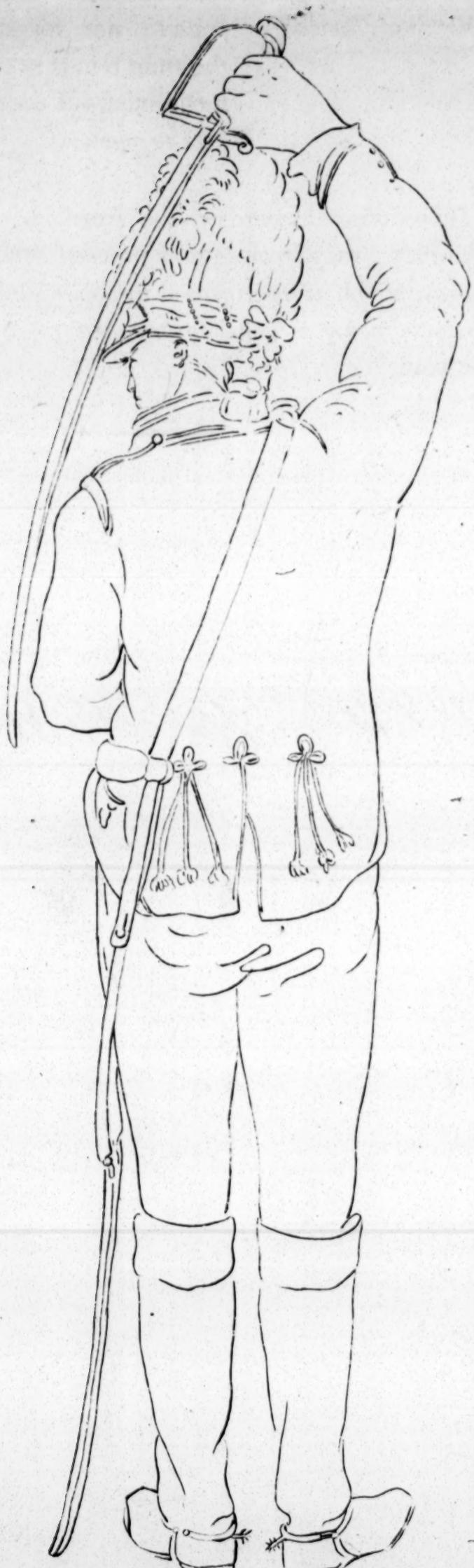
The different guards to the front have already been described; we therefore now proceed to the retiring positions, which are performed upon a different principle, the arm being necessarily bent to carry the sword to the rear.

The three following guards must be executed succeeding each other, without coming to the *prepare* between the intervals of their performance.

Words of Motions.  
Command.Guard.Bridle arm Protect, in two  
Motions.

From the position to guard, carry the sword in a horizontal direction to the right; the edge of the blade leading till it arrives in a right line with the point of the shoulder.

2. Turn the back of the hand under, which will cause the edge of the blade to be upwards: at the same instant, by bending the elbow and turning the wrist so as to place the palm of the hand in front, the blade will be conducted to the protection of the bridle arm, which

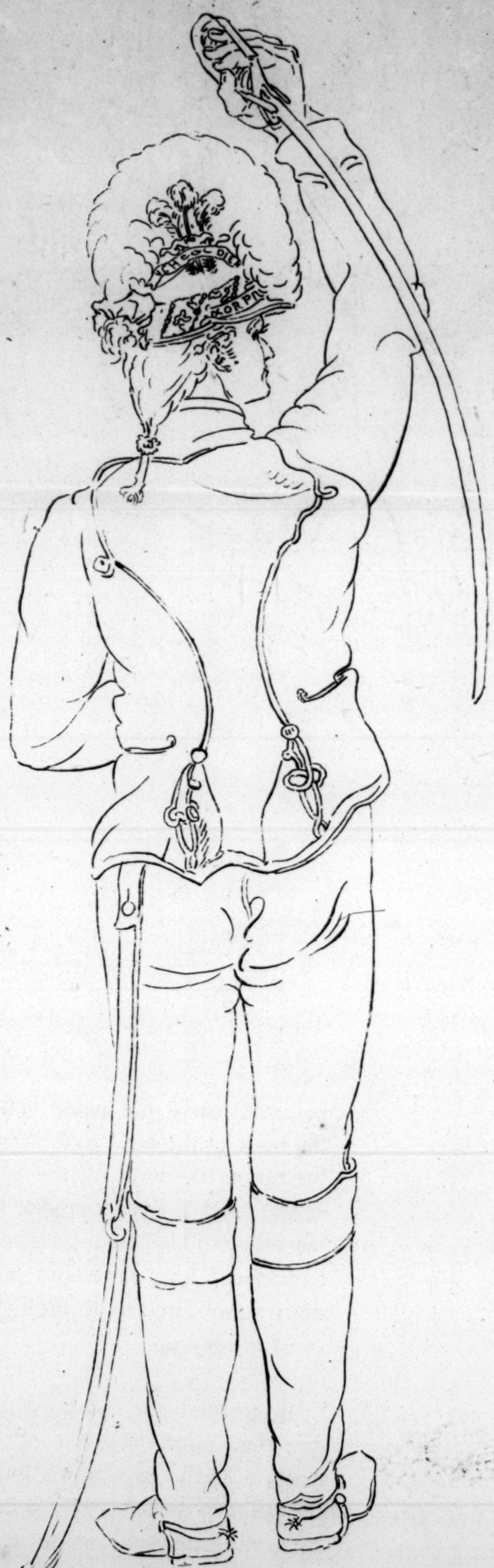


## Bridle. Arm Protect.



WHICH





Sword-arm Protect.

**Words of Command.**

which position consists in having the sword-hilt above the helmet, with the blade crossing the back of the head, the point of the left shoulder, and the bridle-arm ; its edge directed to the left, and turned a little upwards, in order to bring the mounting in a proper direction to protect the hand.

After protecting the bridle arm in two motions, it is to be performed without making any pause on the first motion.

**Sword-arm Protect.**

Without sinking the hand from the protection of the bridle arm, or moving the arm from its former position, carry the blade round the back of the head to the right, by turning the wrist till the palm of the hand arrives opposite the helmet ; the blade will then be in a diagonal line, with the point downwards directed to the right, and the edge up.

**St. George.**

Bring the blade in a horizontal direction across the top of the head, with the edge upwards and the point to the left. This is done by turning the wrist up so as to carry

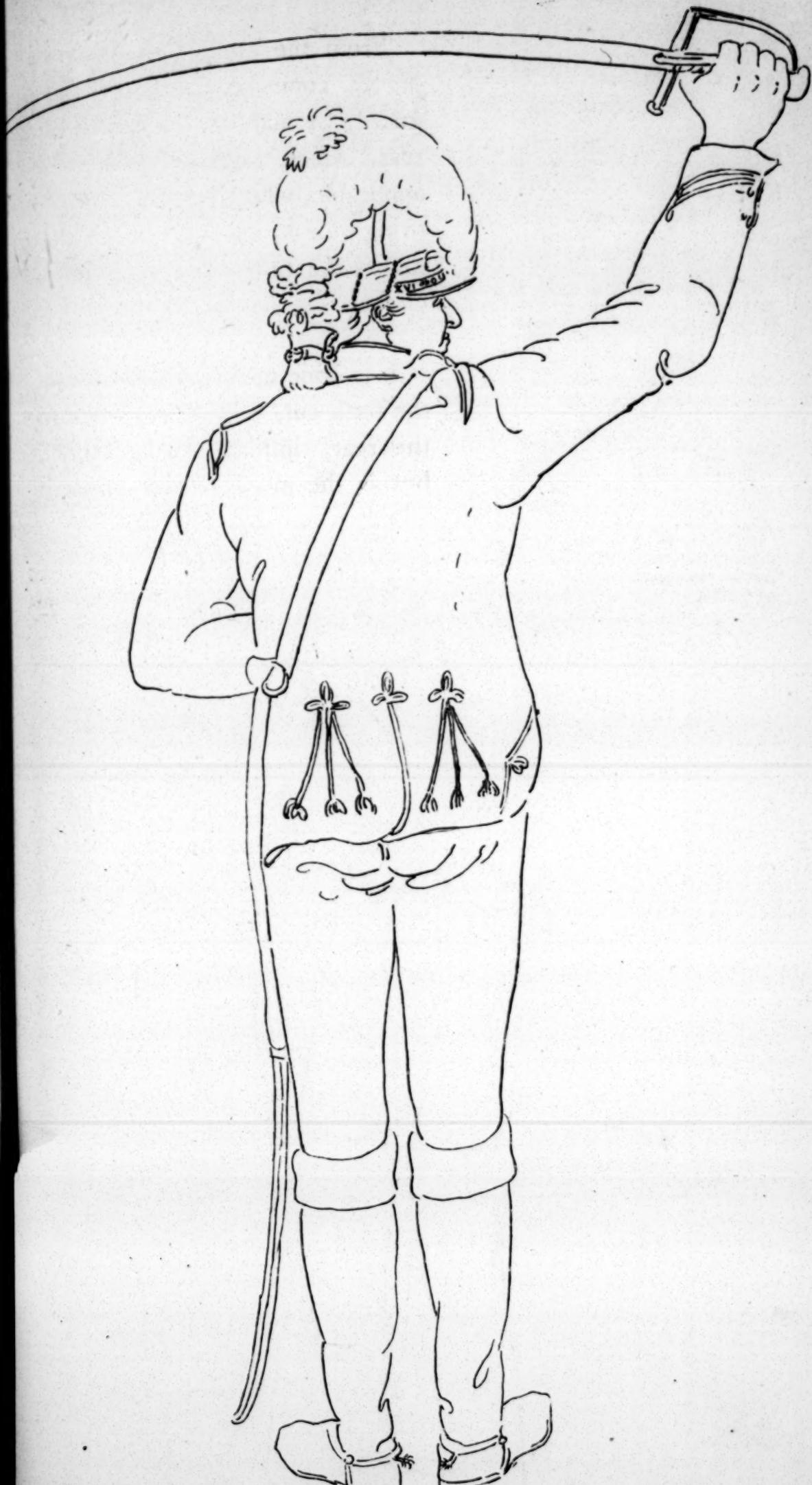
**Words of Command.** Motions. carry the blade round the back of the head to its position.

From the St. George, or head protect, come to the position to guard, by making that cut to the rear, which must frequently be applicable, whenever the three retiring guards are so; and which makes the full sweep of a semi-circle.

It is done upon the principle of the sixth cut, only giving edge to the rear, instead of the front; but as the mode of executing it deviates in some respects from former practice, it may not be amiss to give it in detail. It is performed in two motions from the St. George.

*To the Rear Cut, in two Motions.*

1. By the right, turn the body to the rear as far as possible without moving the feet from the ground: at the same instant carry the blade to the rear, directing the edge as from 6 to 5, till it arrives in a right line with the arm, which will be at its full extent. The point of the blade to be kept upon a level with the shoulder. In this position



St! George!



Words of  
Command.

Motions.

position the edge will be directed to the right, with the back of the hand upwards. Unless the body turns well to the rear when making this cut, the blade must be brought over the right shoulder in place of the left; and severe strains are liable to happen from the arm being exerted in a direction to which the body does not conform.

2. Turn the back of the hand down by a motion of the wrist to the right, and carry the point of the blade with a sweep over the left shoulder, to the proper position in the guard. After cutting to the rear in two motions, execute it without pausing upon the first motion. Return immediately from the *guard* to the position to *prepare*, without any word from the drill officer.
-

## GENERAL APPLICATION of the POINT.

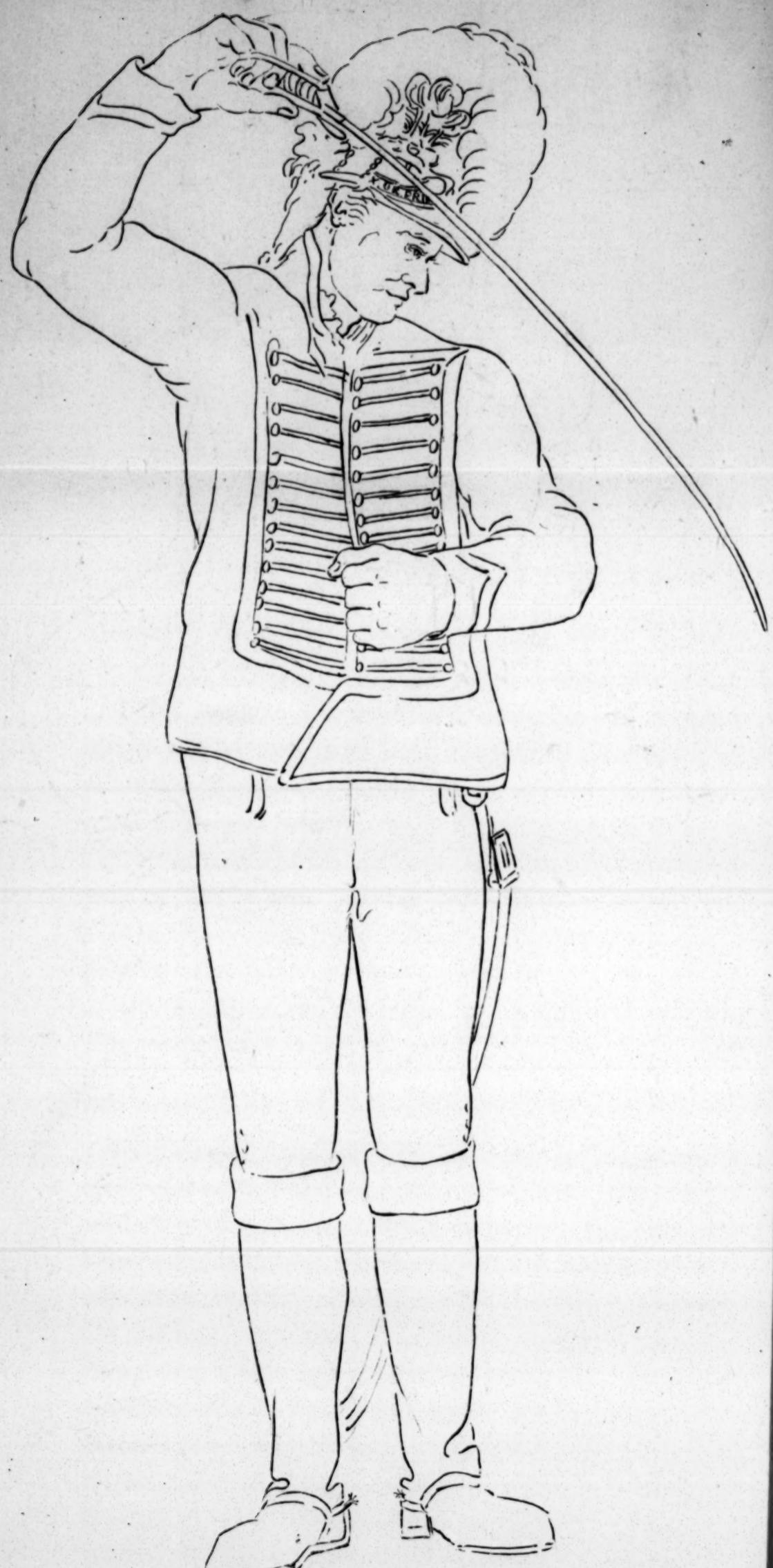
THE motions offensive and defensive best adapted to the cavalry have now been considered; except what relates to the point. But as that is applied upon a general principle, whether against cavalry or infantry, it has been reserved till we come to treat of the infantry part of the system. It has been already mentioned, that the sword has three distinct movements when opposed to the infantry; and which can only be applied in two situations, on the near, or off side of the horse. The movements consist in *giving point*, the *parry*, and the *cut*.

In the drill practice, the motions in each movement will be distinguished by a repetition of numbers, according to the mode already pursued. But precision being once acquired, the recruit is to be ordered to execute them without making any unnecessary pause upon the different motions. Let it be observed, that the safety and advantage in giving the point, consist in opposing only a flank, and never a front to the antagonist, by which means the curve of a scymitar blade covers the body, whilst the guard protects the hand.

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Without





Left Give Point.

**Words of Command.**

*Left give point,  
in two motions.*

**Motions.**

I.

Without moving the feet, turn the head round to the left, keeping the body square to the front; at the same instant place the blade in a diagonal line across the body to the left, with the edge outwards, and the point directed as to an object considerably below your own level.

This is to be done by dropping the point immediately from the position *prepare to guard*, and bending the elbow till the knuckles of the sword-hand are a little above the level of the ear, and about six inches from the head. The fore-finger and thumb are to be distended; the former on the gripe, between the ear and back plate, in a line with the flat of the blade; and the latter on the back plate, in a line with the back of the blade, by which means the extremity of the sword hilt will fall in the palm of the hand; which being prest against the three remaining fingers will give a firm purchase, and the means of applying a steady point. The head will be turned to the left, and eyes to the extremity of the blade.

D 2

The

**Words of Motion.** The recruit will wait in this position for the word *two* from the drill officer.

2. Dart the sword down in the direction in which it was held, to the utmost extent of the arm; taking care not to alter the position of the hand or blade, which should have the edge outwards, and the back of the hand up.

**To the Rear Parry, in two Motions.**

1. Without changing the position of the hand, extend the sword-arm to the front of your usual position in order to take a sweep with the edge of the blade upwards, and kept well off from the body, upon the supposition of being on horseback, so as to prevent the sword from touching the horse's shoulder.

2. Bring the arm back with a quick motion to the rear, till the sword-hand arrives in a line parallel to the left ear, and six inches from the head; at the same instant raise the point till the blade becomes perpendicular with the edge directed outwards to the left, and the back towards the face.

From



D 3

peak



Front Give Pointe.

J. C. Cornet  
W. H. Dray. Del.

Engraved by S. E. Neale.

Words of Command.

Cut IV.

Motions.

From the position in which the blade is left in finishing the *parry*, bring it back to the position in the *guard*; carrying the edge with a good sweep outwards taking care not to cross with your blade parallel to your proper front, till it is brought considerably above the level of the horse's head; otherwise, the animal would be in danger of receiving the cut.

The following movement applies in acting against cavalry.

*Front give point,* 1. Face to the right, by turning on the heels;\* at the same instant retire the arm towards the ear as in giving point to the left; with this difference, that the hand is to be drawn as far back as possible, retaining exactly the same grasp of the sword. The flat of the blade to be upwards, with the edge directed to the right, keeping the point horizontal with the hand, and the sword carried above the

\* The position of the feet being two inches asunder, the facings may be done in one motion, by turning on the heels.

Words of Command.      Motions.

peak of the helmet. The head is to be turned to the left, in the same direction with the point. Upon all occasions in *giving point* against cavalry, the sword is to be carried above the peak of the helmet, and by pressing the blade against the helmet it will be kept steady.

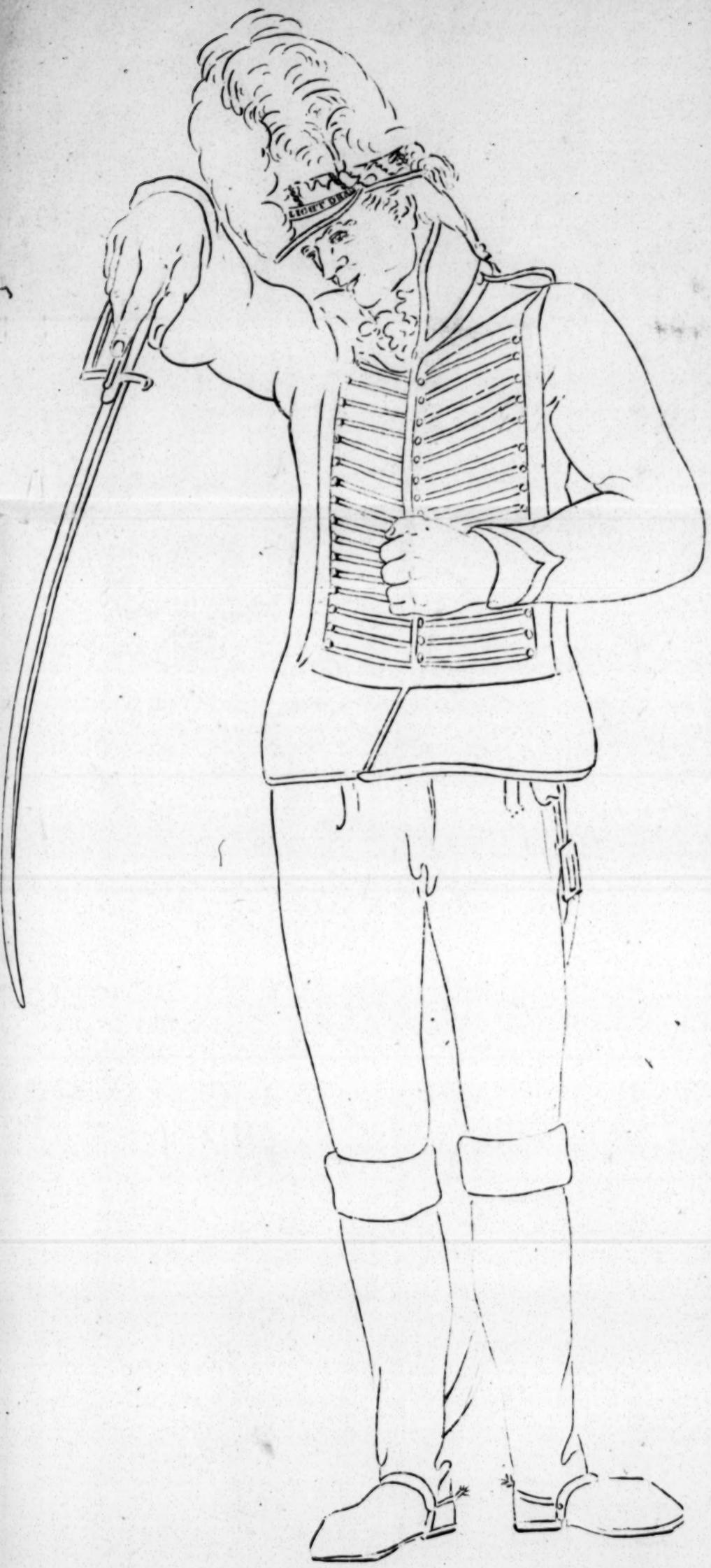
2. Dart the hand in the direction of your proper front, to the full extent of the arm; turning at the same time to the left about, keeping the blade still horizontal, and without changing the position of the hand, which ought to be with the back upwards.

*Cuts V. VI.*

Retire the blade in its horizontal direction to the right, in doing which, bring the back of the hand under and carry the blade immediately to the cuts V. and VI. when return to the *prepare to guard*, from the last cut, bringing the body round to the proper front.

*Right give point  
in two motions.*

1. Turn the head to the right as much as can be done, without moving the body, which is to be kept square to the front; at the same time bring the sword-hand up



Right Give Point.

Engraved by S. L. Neale.

[ 38 ]



Words of Command.

Motions.

up to the ear, having the grasp as before, with the back of the hand up, and the edge of the blade in the same direction as in making the thrust on the near side, carrying the point as much to the right, as in the other instance, it was directed to the left of your usual front.

2. Dart your sword down to the full extent of the arm, without changing the position of the hand.

*Rear parry, in two Motions.*

1. Without changing the position of the hand, carry the blade towards your front to gather a sweep; in doing which turn the edge of the blade up, and the back of the hand under. This will bring the back of the blade opposite your front.

2. Without changing the position of the hand, by a sharp action of the sword-arm to the rear, carry the sword as far back as the arm will admit of, the hand to be on a level with the point of the shoulder, the blade carried perpendicular, with the edge directed towards the rear, and the back to the front.

Words of Command.

Cut III.

Motions.

From the *parry*, bring the sword to the proper position of the *guard*, by carrying an edge with a good sweep outwards, and with the same precaution not to cross parallel to the front on account of the horse. Return from the *guard* to the position of *slope swords*.

---

THE movements of the sword have been considered upon drill principles, in which the attention was directed solely to class them in such a manner, as to lead the recruit progressively to the different changes of which the blade is susceptible, that he may acquire a perfect execution of each separately ; the motions having not the least reference to what may be their positions, when arranged under a proper system of exercise.

---

AFTER having attained to a tolerable degree of accuracy the mode of executing separately the movements already laid down, it will be proper next to proceed to perform the sword-exercise by word of command, taking the motions at the same time from fleugel men according to the principle observed in the manual exercise.

To front the wall will be no longer necessary, as it is  
to

to be supposed that the position of every cut as described on the circle (to which all former practice has been applied) must now be fully in the recollection of the recruit.

The head must follow the direction of every motion; two fleugel-men will therefore be necessary, one on each flank; who are to be careful to take up the time from each other, according to the change of position, or dressing point from right to left.

The distance of files will be laid down for the practice of the sword exercise in battalion and smaller divisions.

The battalion to be told off in wings, and ranks of threes.

### TELLINGS OFF *in* BATTALION *or* DIVISION.

Words of Command.

*Rear rank take distance  
for sword exercise.*

THE right and left hand men of the rear rank belonging to both wings, will retreat nine paces, dressing by the right.

*March.*

The rear rank falls back and dresses

Words of Command.

~~Read and compare with the following order to march.~~

*From the center of  
the battalion open  
your files. March.*

dresses by the pivots; the fleugel men will at the same time take their distances to the front.

The men of the right wing instantly open out, placing their bridle-hands in the hollow of the left side, so as to barely touch with their elbows their left hand files.

The left wing will open out, and upon the same principle insure the distance of files, by means of the right arms.

The rear rank to do the same.

The arms to be kept up, till brought down by a motion from the right fleugel man.

Great attention from the drill officer is requisite, in order to observe that the proper distances of files are taken, to prevent unpleasant accidents which may otherwise occur, and on this account the arm should be kept bent, till he has seen that the distances are correctly observed.

Upon

Words of Command.

*Prepare to perform  
sword exercise.*

Upon these words of command, the right subdivision of each wing will give the distances of files in the manner following.

The right-hand man of ranks by three's stands fast, the center man takes three paces to the rear of the right-hand file, and covers him.

The left-hand man of the division retreats six paces and covers the two preceding file of his division.

The doubling files are all to step off with the right feet, the rear rank does the same, covering the front rank files.

The right-hand files of all the divisions stand fast: the left and center men taking their distances as before directed: \* officers and non-commissioned officers to the rear, except such as are told off in ranks of threes.

\* The non-commissioned officers to be one horse's length to the rear, covering a file, the officers at the distance of two horses length.

By

Words of Command.

By this movement the battalion will become six deep.

As an awkward man may occasion a serious accident by not exactly covering his file, it will be most safe to prove their distances, which is to be done as follows.

*To the right prove  
the distance of files.*

† Taking the motions from the fleugel-man, every man will point his sword to the right at the full extent of his arm, keeping the blade horizontal, and in a line with the shoulder; the edge directed the same way, and the hilt held in the precise manner, as when giving point in that direction. The body to be kept square to the front, with the head turned to the right.

When each file has had time to see whether he has his proper distance, and corrected it where required, (which must be instantly done with a steady eye and prompt decision) they will be di-

rected

† The right hand men of the line remain with their swords sloped, having no distance to prove.

Words of Command.

rected to return to the position of  
*slope swords.*

On this word of command, the swords are to be brought down together to the position directed, in doing which, the point is not to be dropped.

*To the front, prove distance of files.*

This is to be done, in every respect according to the rules laid down for giving point to the right; carrying the sword forward with caution, so as not to wound the file in front, should the distance not have been preserved. The front rank remains with swords sloped, upon the principle laid down for the files on the flanks of the line.

*Slope Swords.*

The swords to return to the *slope*, the body kept square to the front.

## SWORD EXERCISE *on* FOOT.

The sword exercise consists of the motions already described, arranged in six distinct classes of offensive and defensive movements, with reference to their application in these situations which are most likely to occur on actual service.

Explanatory notes of the principles of application comprised in each movement will be given, and likewise further instruction as to the mode of executing the different motions, which being now combined with others, vary in some respects from the directions that have been laid down for performing them singly. As the sword exercise, when acquired, is to be executed by one word of command to each division of movements, the memory must be assisted as much as possible, in order to enable every person to recollect the motions, as they succeed each other: for which purpose the following leading points should be observed.

Each division of movements commences with coming to the *prepare to guard*, from the position of *slope swords*, and is succeeded by the *guard*.

The position *prepare to guard* always succeeds the last motion of the six cuts, to which position the sword is immediately to be brought, without pausing in the least on the last motion of the preceding movement.

The

The point is always given from the position to *prepare* without first coming to the *guard*, excepting in the last division of movements; and notwithstanding that in the other five divisions it may be given to the Right and Left, yet between each thrust come to the *prepare*, as it is to originate from that position. The *left* and *right* *protect* are likewise made from the *prepare to guard*.

Each movement invariably concludes with the motions *prepare to guard*, the *guard*, and *sloping* of swords.

The memory will therefore have to charge itself only with the particular motions which belong to each of the six divisions of movements. This will be rendered perfectly clear by the words of command which characterize the movements being distinguished by numbers.

---

**WORDS OF COMMAND.**

*Perform Sword Exercise by Word of Command.*

**First Division of Movements.**

From which Fleugelman the Motion is to be taken.

<i>Prepare to guard.</i>	Right.
<i>Guard.</i>	Right.
No. 1. <i>Affault.</i>	Right.
No. 2. <i>Left protect.</i>	Right.
No. 3. <i>Right protect.</i>	Left.
No. 4. <i>Prepare to guard.</i>	Right.
No. 5. <i>Front give point.</i>	Right.
* <i>Prepare to guard.</i>	Left.
<i>Guard.</i>	Right.
<i>Slope Swords.</i>	Right.

It is to be an invariable rule to return to the *prepare to guard*, upon the last motion of the sixth cut.

It is also to be recollectcd, that the head turns and remains fixt in the direction to which the motion points.

\* Drop the point, and bring it with a sweep round the left elbow to the *prepare to guard*.

The

The motions throughout the exercise are to be performed sharp and correctly, paying strict attention to the dressing points.

In this first division there are only five motions which are not conformable to the general rule already stated.

The points of dressing given opposite the words of command, shew from which fleugelman the particular motions are to be taken; and it is to be considered as matter of course, that the head and eyes follow the direction of each motion.

---

### *Explanation of the first Division of Movements.*

The *assault* represents the charge, where the six Cuts are directed indiscriminately to the *right* and *left*.

The *protects* are against the returning cuts of the enemy.

The *point* is given on a supposition of the enemy's retiring.

---

**WORDS OF COMMAND.***Second Division of Movements.*

		Fleugelman.
	<i>Prepare to guard.</i>	Right.
	<i>Guard.</i>	Right.
No. 1.	<i>Affault.</i>	Right.
No. 2.	<i>Guard.</i>	Right.
No. 3.	<i>Bridle-arm protect.</i>	Right.
No. 4.	<i>Sword-arm protect.</i>	Left.
No. 5.	<i>St. George.</i>	Right.
*No. 6.	<i>Rear cut.</i>	Right.
	<i>Guard.</i>	Right.
	<i>Slope swords.</i>	Right.

*Explanation of the second Division of Movements.*

The *assault* represents the charge.

Guarding the *bridle-arm* denotes being obliged to retreat, and as the pursuer will generally attack the near side, it is the safest position to receive him in, as it not only covers the arm, but as the enemy passes, carry the

\* Upon the last motion of the cut, return to the *prepare to guard*.

blade forwards, by moving the hand in that direction, it will also give protection to the whole of the near side.

The sword-arm is supposed to be attacked by a second pursuer, the moment the first is gone past, who makes his advance on the off side, in consequence of seeing the attack on the near defeated.

In the defence of the sword-arm the head and shoulders are exposed, to which an offensive movement is made, and parried by coming to the position *St. George*: the retreat is completed by giving cut VI. to the rear.

---

## WORDS OF COMMAND.

### *Third Division of Movements.*

	Fleugelman.
<i>Prepare to guard.</i>	Right.
<i>Guard.</i>	Right.
<i>No. 1. Assault.</i>	Right.
<i>No. 2. Guard.</i>	Right.
<i>No. 3. Horse's near side protect.</i>	Right.
<i>No. 4. Horse's off side protect.</i>	Left.
<i>*No. 5. Cuts I. II. I.</i>	Right.

\* Upon the last motion in cut I. come to the *prepare to guard*, by dropping your point as before directed.

No. 6. <i>Left protect.</i>	Right.
No. 7. <i>Right protect.</i>	Left.
No. 8. <i>Prepare to guard.</i>	Right.
No. 9. <i>Front give point.</i>	Right.
*No. 10. <i>Cut I.</i>	Left.
<i>Guard.</i>	Right.
<i>Slope swords.</i>	Right.

\* Return to the *prepare to guard.*

---

### *Explanation of the third Division of Movements.*

The *assault* is the charge.

The horse's head is attacked and protected.

By the antagonist's second cut at the horse, he exposes his own head, which opening is taken advantage of in making the cuts I. II. I. and which he parries by coming to the *left* and *right protect*, and returns the point with cut I.

---

WORDS

## WORDS OF COMMAND.

\*Fourth Division of Movements.

	Fleugelman.
Prepare to guard.	Right.
Guard.	Right.
†No. 1. On your right to the front parry.	Right.

\* As this part of the subject relates to acting against infantry, attention must be paid to the principles given in the drill lessons, for the application both of the point and edge of the sabre.

† Parry the bayonet in the same manner to the front, as in the drill lessons was practised to the rear.—And upon the word of command being given, retire the sword-arm as far to the rear as possible, the edge of the blade leading in a horizontal direction, and in a line with the shoulder; when arrived at the extent of the arm, the action of the wrist is to carry on the motion of the blade till it becomes perpendicular, with the point upwards and back of the blade to the front. These motions must be executed with spirit.—The Fleugelman will pause a little in this position, and then make his parry to the front, in completing which he recovers his sword over the left shoulder, to be in readiness for cuts II. and I. In bringing his blade from the parry to its position for making his cuts, the moment it has passed over the horse's head he carries the point with a sweep round his left to the rear; the back of the sword-hand to touch the left temple, the edge of the blade upwards, with the back resting on the shoulder, and the point sunk considerably below the level of the hand. In this position wait for the order to cut II. and I.; the former on the off, and the latter on the near side of the horse.

<b>‡No. 2. Cuts II and I.</b>	Right & left
No. 3. Right give point.	Right.
No. 4. Prepare to guard.	Right.
No. 5. Left give point.	Left.
<b>§No. 6. Cuts III. and IV.</b>	Left & right.
Guard.	Right.
Slope swords.	Right.

*Explanation of the fourth Division of Movements.*

The charge of a line of infantry in a narrow pass occupied by them on both sides.

† In giving edge against infantry the body must be turned in the direction of the cut, and correspond with the action of the blade; and in recovering the sword from one side to the other, let it cross the head in the position described by the *St. George*; and pause a second whilst in that attitude, till the eye is supposed to have fixed on its object. From the last motion in cut I. return to the *prepare to guard*.

Cut III. is made on the off side, and IV. on the near side of the horse.

§ The same directions given in the preceding note are to be followed in this instance, recollecting, that cut IV. is executed in two motions, as before pointed out in the drill practice of infantry movements, viz. The first motion is to place the blade in the precise position directed in the second movement of the left parry and from which the cut is to be made.

The



*Cut Two against Infantry.*

Fleugelman.

†No. 2. Cuts II and I.	Right & left
No. 3. Right give point.	Right.
No. 4. Prepare to guard.	Right.
No. 5. Left give point.	Left.
§No. 6. Cuts III. and IV.	Left & right.
Guard.	Right.
Slope swords.	Right.

*Explanation of the fourth Division of Movements.*

The charge of a line of infantry in a narrow pass occupied by them on both sides.

† In giving edge against infantry the body must be turned in the direction of the cut, and correspond with the action of the blade; and in recovering the sword from one side to the other, let it cross the head in the position described by the *St. George*; and pause a second whilst in that attitude, till the eye is supposed to have fixed on its object. From the last motion in cut I. return to the *prepare to guard*.

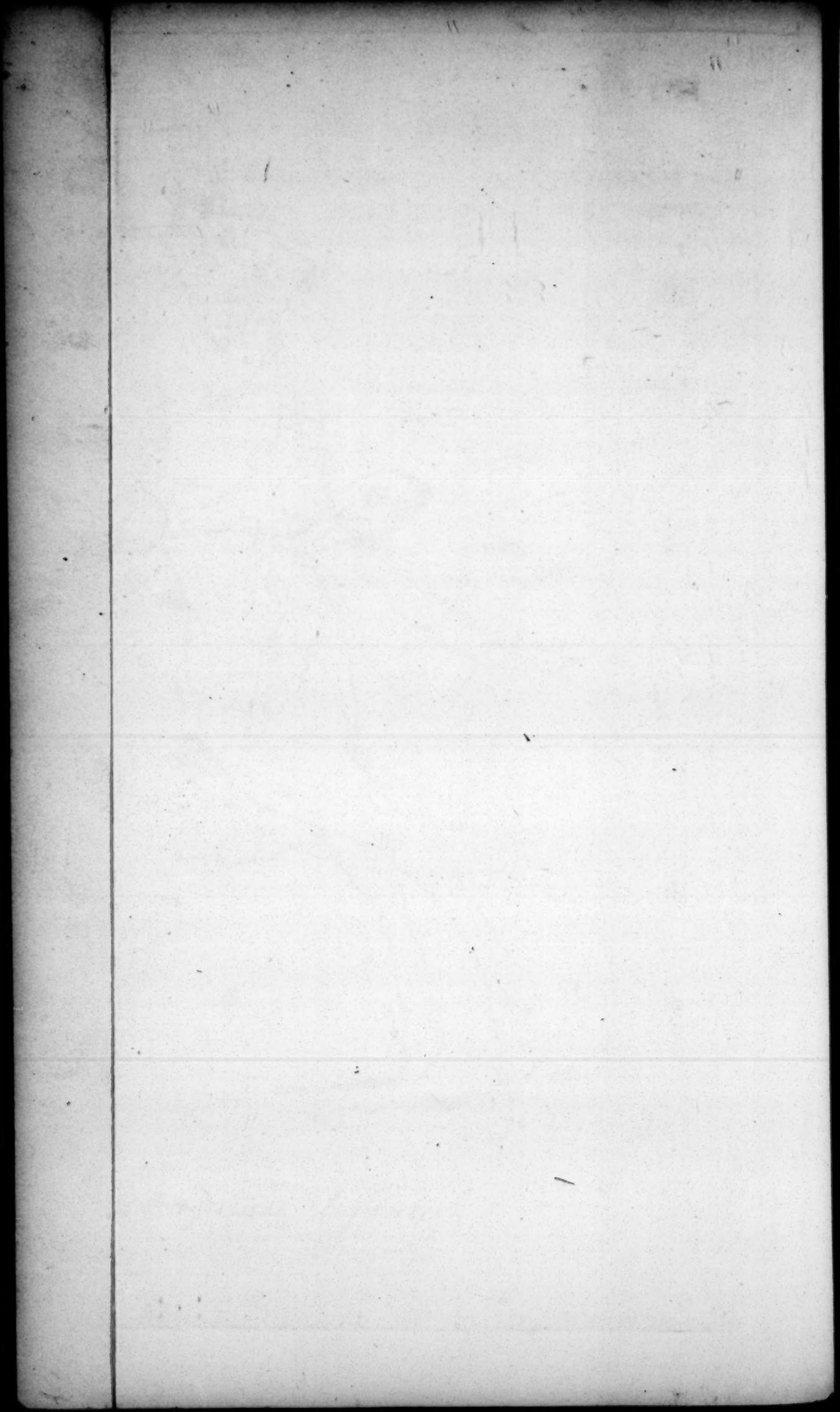
Cut III. is made on the off side, and IV. on the near side of the horse.

§ The same directions given in the preceding note are to be followed in this instance, recollecting, that cut IV. is executed in two motions, as before pointed out in the drill practice of infantry movements, viz. The first motion is to place the blade in the precise position directed in the second movement of the left parry and from which the cut is to be made.

The



*Cut Two against Infantry.*



The first movement is to force the bayonets off to the front on the off side, and applying the edge to the right and left, with the point, keeping both sides of the enemy occupied, till the defile is supposed to be past.

---

## WORDS OF COMMAND.

### \* Fifth Division of Movements.

	Fleugelman.
Prepare to guard.	Right.
Guard.	Right.
† No. 1. Left cut I. and II.	Left.

\* This being the defence of one horseman against the attack of two, one on each side, the cuts and thrusts are to be made as much to the right and left of his front, as in the infantry practice, only the sword-arm to be kept well up, as directed for all cavalry movements.

† Carry the arm to the left, preserving the sword in the exact position of the guard, and make cuts I. and II.

In the third motion of cut II. the blade must be clear of the horse's head, and on the off side. The body in the same instant is to be turned to the right, bringing the blade in the *fourth motion*, up to the position of the guard in that direction. The difficulty experienced by beginners in making this cut on the near-side originates from their suffering the hand to sink from the given position of the guard.

		Fleugelman.
† No. 2.	Right cut I. and II.	Right.
No. 3.	Left give point.	Right.
No. 4.	Prepare to guard.	Left.
§ No. 5.	Right give point.	Right.
No. 6.	Cuts V. and VI.	Left & Right.
	Guard.	Right.
	Slope swords.	Right.

### *Explanation of the fifth Division of Movements.*

#### *The defence of one man against two.*

The cuts applied on both sides are the offensive movements towards each antagonist as he approaches.

The left give point, is to the enemy on the left; and the right, for the one in that direction, whom he has at bay by remaining on the longe, waiting the approach of

† Return to the *prepare to guard* upon the conclusion of the last motion in cut II.

§ The moment the point is given, turn the edge of the blade to the front, and head to the left, keeping the arm and sword extended in a right line, in readiness to make cut V. on the near side, as soon as it is supposed the antagonist is within reach.

|| Cut V. is made on the near, and VI. on the off-side of the horse; and upon the last motion of cut VI. come to the *prepare to guard*.

the

the other antagonist ; at whom he makes cut V. the moment he is supposed to be within reach ; and cut VI. in the opposite direction.

---

## WORDS OF COMMAND.

### *Sixth Division of Movements.*

	Fleugelman.
<i>Prepare to guard.</i>	Right.
<i>Guard.</i>	Right.
<b>No. I. Right give point.</b>	Right.
<b>* No. 2. Cuts I. and II.</b>	Right.
<b>† No. 3. Left parry.</b>	Left.
<b>§ No. 4. Left protect.</b>	Left.

\* Cuts I. and II. are made on the off-side.

† Left parry is done in two motions. The first by bringing the sword-hand into the hollow of the left shoulder, upon the last motion in cut II. keeping the back of the hand outwards, and the point perpendicular. Second motion, drop the point of the blade as much to the rear of the near-side as possible, making the circle by bringing it round to the front in the same position.

§ As the defence is made to an attack on the near-side, in pursuit, the left protect must be carried as much to the left as the arm will permit ; and the right protect, not to the off-side, as in an attack to the front, but in the direction of your horse's left ear.

No. 5.	<i>Right protect.</i>	Left.
No. 6.	<i>Front give point.</i>	Left.
	<i>Prepare to guard.</i>	Left.
	<i>Guard.</i>	Right.
	<i>Slope swords.</i>	Right.

---

### *Explanation of the Sixth Division of Movements.*

The modes of making an attack on the near side of a retiring enemy, with the means of defeating it, supposing it to be done in speed.

*Offensive* { Give point to the right, and make cuts I. and II. by which time the enemy is supposed to have rode past.

*Defensive.* { Receive the enemy with the sword-hand in the hollow of the left shoulder, ready either to protect or parry : as he makes his thrust, drop your blade outwards ; it will carry off his point. Cuts I. and II. are protected by the left and right protect ; and by checking your horse, let your opponent pass, and instantly give him the point.

As soon as each division of movements is correctly executed by word of command ; it must then be performed

formed by only one word, specifying the particular division of movements.

The motions are all to be taken from the fleugelman, without waiting for any other command than the one already mentioned.

---

AFTER the exercise is performed, it will be necessary to bring the battalion into its proper formation, which may thus be done.

Words of Command.      Upon which the centre and  
*Front, form line.*      left hand men of divisions, run up  
*March.* and dress by the pivot.

*Rear rank close to  
 the front.*      To be done according to the  
 custom of the service.

*March.*

*To the centre, close  
 your files.*      This is executed with the side-  
 step.

*March.*

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## PART II.

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### DRILL ON HORSEBACK.

**T**O become a perfect cavalry swordsman, horsemanship is indispensably necessary, and without it, very little benefit can be derived from the science. Good riding does not consist in urging a horse forward with precipitation and checking him with violence, but a dragoon and his horse should be so formed to each other as to act as one body; for which purpose the rider should make himself acquainted with the temper and powers of the animal, so that by a judicious management, the horse may be rendered docile, and execute readily whatever may be expected of him.

Great patience will be required in training the horses to quit the ranks readily, if they have been accustomed only to act in squadron. And it is alone by temper and perseverance, not by severity, that vice is to be conquered, and those tricks surmounted which in horses generally originate in timidity.

Before the sword exercise is attempted to be performed on horseback; it will be necessary to render

der the horses steady, by accustoming them to the sight of the sabre; which is easily effected, by frequently making the cuts five and six to the front, and dropping the blade both on the near and off-side, as is done in saluting. The horse should never be struck with the sword, as it will render him unsteady, and his apprehension afterwards will never allow him to face the weapon, which will have the effect of placing his rider on the defensive whenever attacked.

The regiment being mounted, and the swords drawn for the purpose of performing the sword exercise, the distance of ranks and files is to be taken as follows.

---

### DISTANCE of RANKS on HORSEBACK.

Words of Command. THE distance on the wings to  
Rear rank rein back be marked as directed in the foot  
for sword exercise. practice.

*March.* The rear rank reins back four  
 horses lengths, and dresses by the  
 pivots.

*Prepare to perform  
 sword exercise.* The right subdivision of each  
 wing, to mark the distance of files  
 in the manner directed for the foot  
 practice; allowing the distance of  
 the

**Words of Command.**

the third of a horse's length between head and croup.

**March.**

The centre and left files rein back, till clear of the standing flank, when they will file to the right, and dress by the pivots, taking care to cover correctly, by placing their horses square to the front.

The distance of files is to be proved, as executed on foot.

**SWORD-EXERCISE when MOUNTED.**

*Perform sword exercise in six divisions of movements, by fleugelman.*

In completing each division of movements, the line will return to the position of slope swords, when they will remain seated steady, dressing to the right, and without the least motion whatever.

After the pause of two seconds, the commanding officer will repeat the next word of command.

In

Words of Command.  
Second Division.

In the like manner he must repeat his commands through the remaining four divisions, which are comprised in the sword exercise.

The reins must be held very short, so as to enable the rider by the least action of the bridle-hand, to regulate the motion of his horse's head, in order to prevent the blade from being obstructed in its course: And that the tightness of the reins may not occasion any reining back, or impatience in the animal; take care to ease him by carrying the hand sufficiently forward for that purpose; at the same time feel his mouth without bearing a dead weight in that direction.

THE exercise must at first be performed slow, till great correctness of execution in every motion is attained.

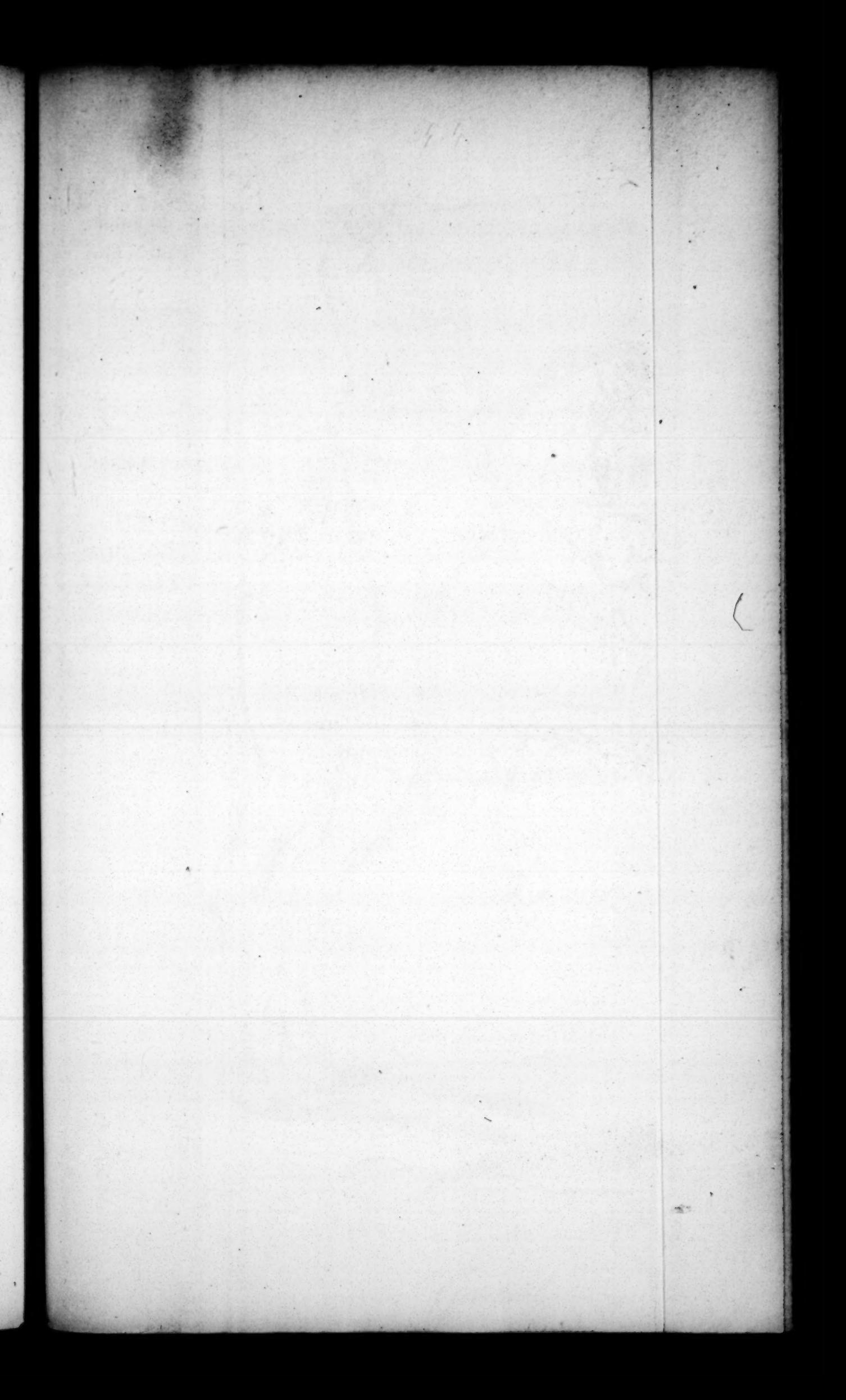
In each cut, made either to the right or left of the front, the bridle hand is to feel the horse's mouth to the opposite direction, in order to prevent the possibility of danger to the animal. If this is not done with judgment,

ment, the horse will become unsteady. The slightest inclination of the hand is sufficient for the purpose required, if the reins are properly held. There is no danger whatever of wounding the horse, provided the edge of the blade is kept outwards agreeable to the drill instructions; or of its being impeded in moving either to the front or rear, if attention is paid not to cross parallel to your front, till the point of the sword is brought above the level of the shoulder. Too much attention cannot be paid to these particulars, as on their observance, the safety of the animal and dexterity in the exercise of the sabre in a great measure depend. The positions of *carry* and *slope swords* are the same when on horseback, as executed on foot.

In performing the six divisions of movements, it is to be observed as an invariable rule in coming to the *guard*, to rise in a small degree in the stirrup, but *not clear* of the saddle, and to return to the usual seat on horseback with the motion to *slope swords*.

The assault and the different guards both to the front and rear have no particular variation from the foot practice.

In the fourth division, whether executed in line or speed, the body is to be kept erect, and in either giving edge or point against infantry, the force must be derived from the motion of the arm, not from an inclination of the body, the balance of which should be preserved, otherwise the horseman becomes exposed to the thrust





Guard

Needle scd

thrust of a bayonet at the instant his position renders him incapable of parrying it.

In giving point to the front, the toe of the left foot must be turned in to the horse's side, and the heel out, otherwise it will be impossible to bring the left shoulder and elbow in the direction required in the first motion, which consists in placing them in a line with the horse's head.

The same rule must be observed in cutting to the rear. Whatever movement is made, whether applied to cavalry or infantry, the balance of the body must be preserved by means of the knees and thighs without throwing the weight partially on either stirrup; as upon service, horses are very subject to slip through their girths, notwithstanding every possible attention that may be paid to remedy the inconvenience; therefore, if the balance is not preserved, the saddle will turn and dismount the rider, of which many fatal examples have occurred.

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### SWORD DRILL moving in CIRCLE.

In order to apply skillfully in actual service, the different movements of the sword comprised in this exercise, it will be absolutely necessary to acquire a firm seat on horseback. For this purpose the regiment must be trained by the riding-master in squads of eighteen or

twenty men, to perform the exercise in a correct seat, when moving round a circle in a hand gallop. The precise position consists in placing the foot so far into the stirrup, as to bring the inner part of the ball of the foot on the outer rim of the stirrup iron.

From the hip bone downwards, the leg and thigh are to be turned round to the saddle, the knee joint nearly straight, the toes turned well in, and the heels sunk as low as they will admit of. According to these instructions, the knee and thigh will have so firm a gripe of the saddle, that neither the loss of a stirrup, or any sudden motion of the animal, can shake the rider from his position. The belly and chest are to be brought forward, whilst the points of the shoulders are pressed back, and the head carried well up. The only motion of the body below the saddle, is to be derived from the instep, and above it from the small of the back. Attention must be paid in every particular to the rules laid down for the soldier's position on horseback, as omission in any point would prevent his ever acquiring a firm seat. Great care should likewise be taken that the heels are sunk well down, otherwise the balance of the body, which ought to be thrown backwards, will be brought forward, when a sudden halt is liable to displace the rider.

The length of the stirrups will be fitted to the under part of the inner ankle bone.

As in this mode of practice there are no fleugelmen, the motions are not required to be executed so exactly together,

together, the object being principally to attain a correctness of execution, and a firm position on horseback.

The different movements will at first be executed by word of command at a walk, and the squad is not to be made to gallop, until they have acquired a confirmed seat, and execute their motions with spirit and precision.

When they perform in a gallop, the pace is to be regulated by order, and after every division of movements to be brought from the gallop to the trot, then to the walk, and finally to be halted.

Attention must be paid that the horse leads with the proper leg, and the practice should be equally directed to the left and right.

Want of exactness either in the position of individuals or the execution of the exercise, must be promptly corrected; and frequently it will be necessary to halt them for that purpose, in order to instruct separately the person who may require it.

As the exercise in circle is severe for the horses, much is left to the discretion and judgment of the drill officer, who is required to pay great attention in this respect, and particularly in the forming of heavy cavalry.

The distance of a horse's length is to be preserved between each file.

## The SIX DIVISIONS of MOVEMENTS *Performed in Speed.*

As soon as the squad is able to perform the exercise moving in circle, let them execute the same in speed upon a right line. For which purpose draw up the squad in a rank entire at the extremity of a range of two hundred yards; the drill officer placing himself at the intermediate distance, where he will be best able to see and correct their movements.

Only one man is to perform at the same time: they will all execute individually the six divisions, beginning with the first, which they are to repeat till the squad has rode past as many times as may be requisite to confirm them in the perfect execution of the motions and management of the horse. As each man concludes his division of movements, he is to form at the opposite end of the range from whence he set off, and fronting the remainder of the party.

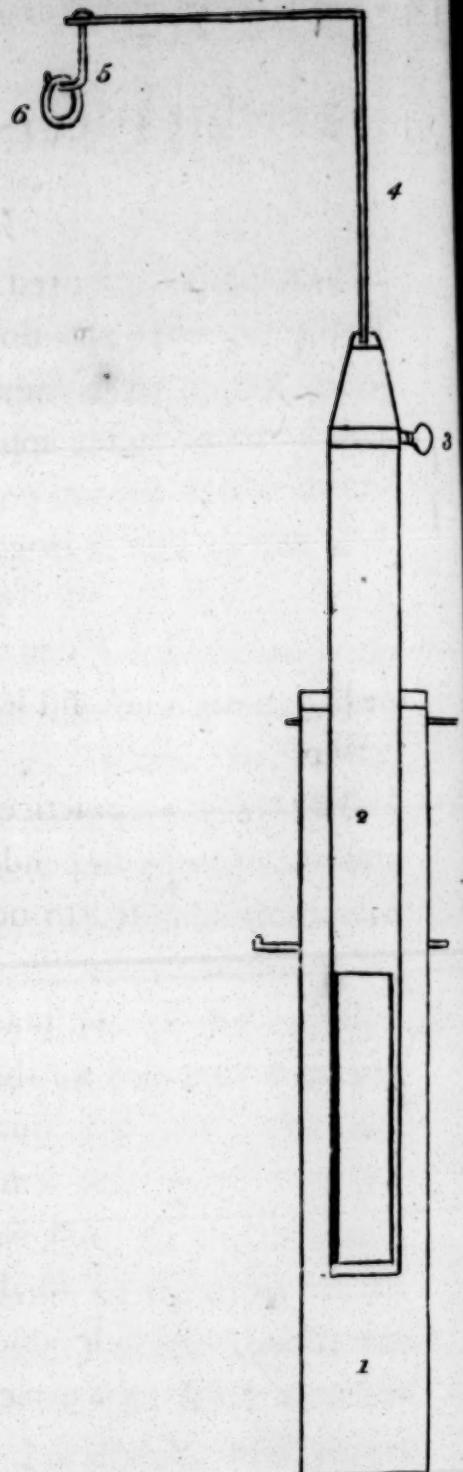
It will frequently be found necessary for the drill officer to ride by the side of the person performing the division, in order to regulate the pace, which should never exceed three quarters speed, at the same time to correct the rider's position on horseback, and insure precision in the different movements; as on no account is the smallest deviation to be admitted in the mode of practice pointed out for performing the exercise in line.





**Edge Post**  
*View'd in Front*

- 1 The Body
- 2 The Slider
- 3 A Brass Screw
- 4 Willow Twig



**Ring Post**  
*View'd in Profile*

- 1 The Body
- 2 The Slider which can be  
fixt to any Height required
- 3 a Brass Screw
- 4 a Triangle
- 5 Hook to place the Ring on
- 6 The Ring

## RUNNING at the RING.

HAVING acquired a firm seat on horseback and correctness in the execution of the sword exercise with the horse in speed; the next qualification requisite, is to attain precision in the application of the point and the edge.

Running at the ring is adapted for the particular purpose of training the swordsman to carry his point with certainty to any given space, which must be the result of repeated habit and long practice.

The mode of practice consists in giving point through a ring, which is suspended at the degree of height which cavalry is supposed to occupy.

The ring is to be made of metal, and to measure in diameter five inches, the inner circle to be four inches, and the depth one quarter. This is the largest size which ought to be employed, and is only adapted to beginners, who must be progressively led in their practice from large to small rings, till they are enabled to give point with tolerable degree of certainty, within the diameter of a crown piece.

In order to suspend the ring at the height required, a machine will be necessary, the particular construction of which will be exemplified in plate XXII. It will answer the purpose of placing the ring in all the different

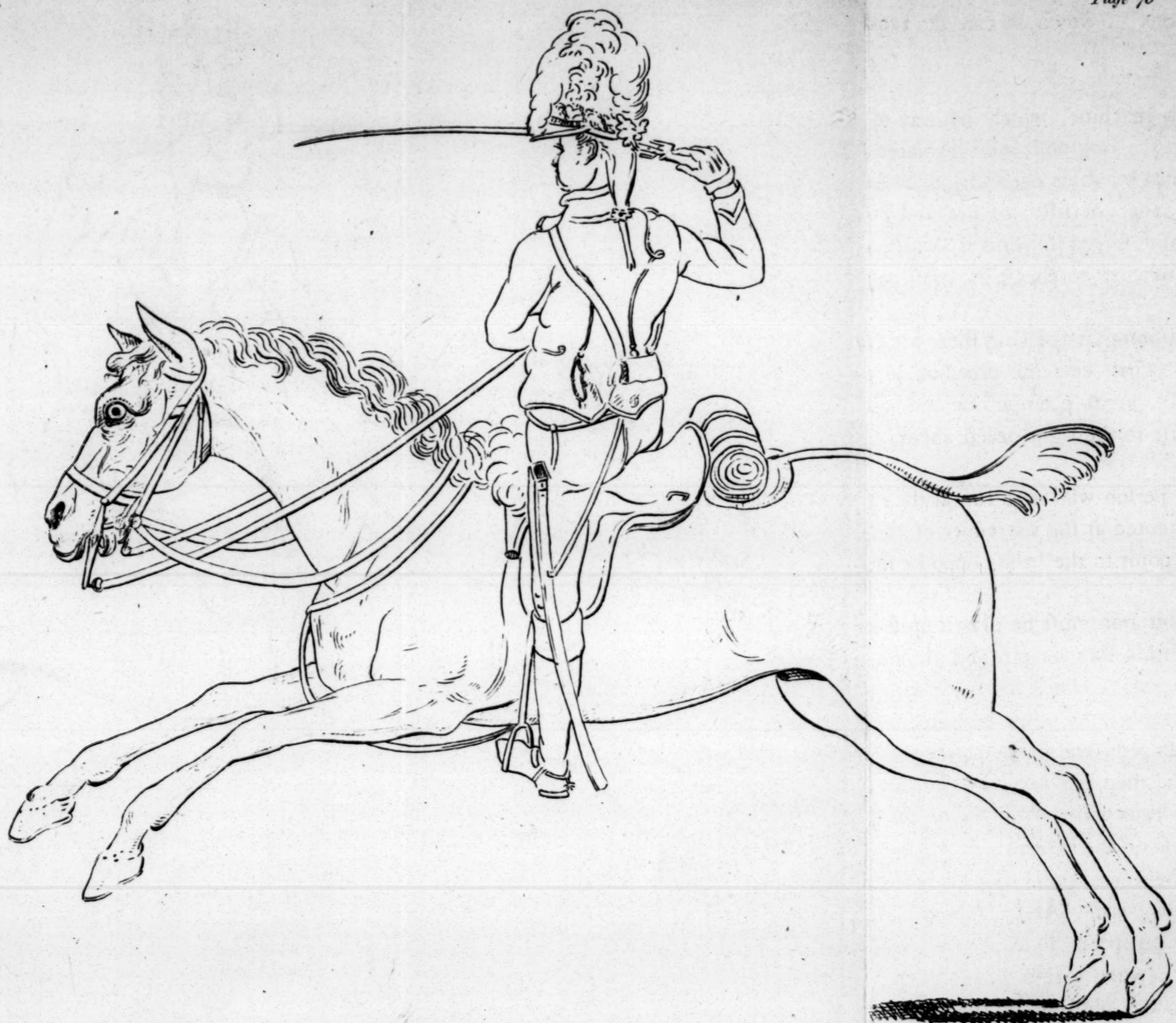
directions in which it can be requisite to apply the point.

This machine, which by way of distinction will be termed the ring post, must be placed in a situation where there is a tolerable even surface of seventy yards, allowing a range of fifty, or five and fifty yards up to the ring, and fifteen beyond it, which will be more than space sufficient to check the most awkward horse.

In running at the ring there are two things to be acquired ; first, extreme precision in giving point ; and secondly, great promptitude and dexterity in bringing the horse to the right or left about.

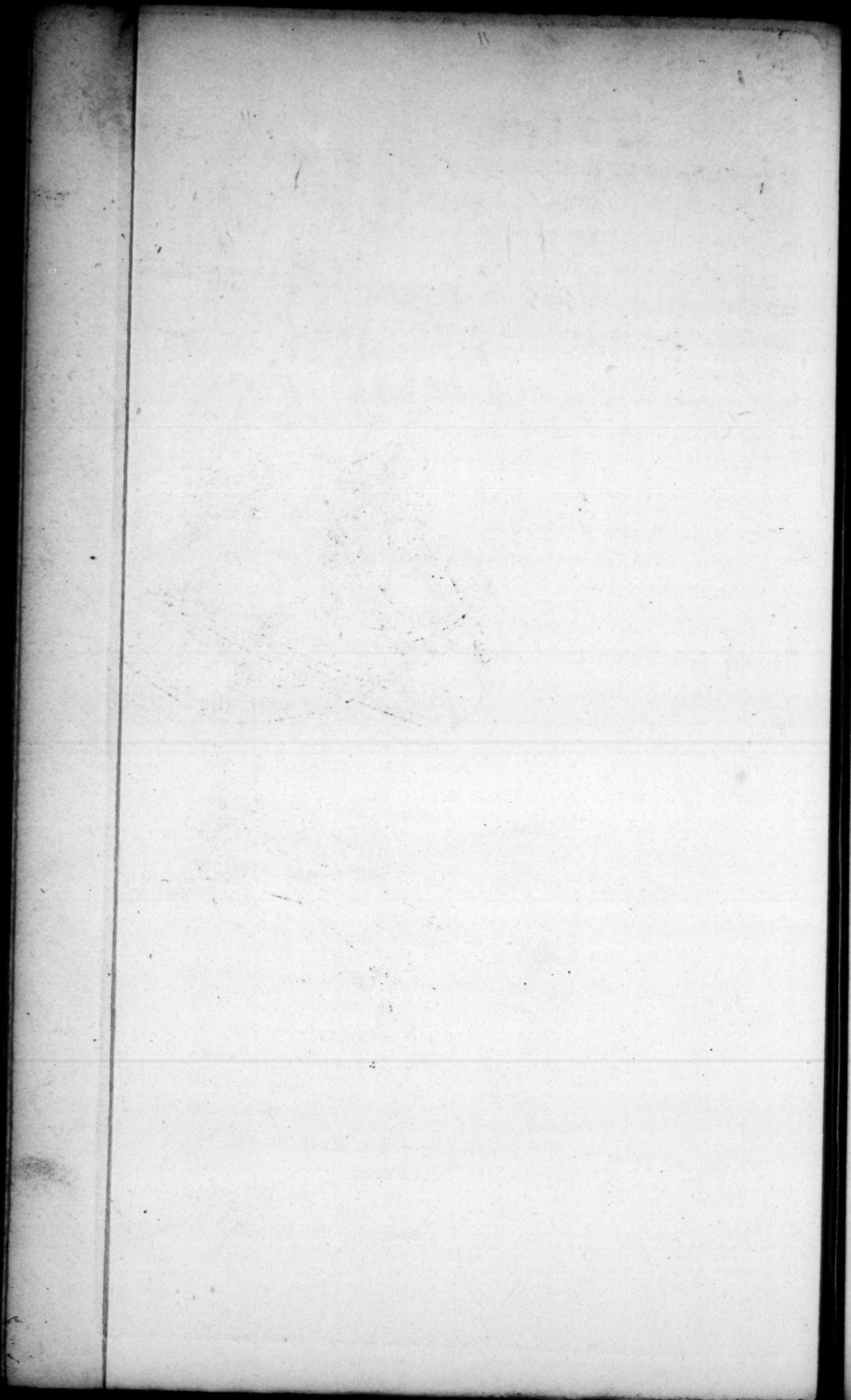
The person who is to run at the ring, will place himself mounted at the extremity of the range, (and when giving point to the front) opposite the ring.

His bit rein must be drawn up short, keeping it firm between his fore finger and thumb, in order that he may be able to check his horse within the shortest compass possible ; he must be seated in his saddle with his sword sloped ; the first ten paces he ought to move in a trot, and then put his horse into a canter, taking care that he leads with his off leg, at the same time the rider will press on the stirrups ; by sinking the heel and straitening the knee, and bring his sword in the position of *prepare to guard*. As he approaches the ring, he must increase his speed, so as to arrive at it with considerable rapidity ; when within fifteen yards, let him bring his sword to the position of the guard, and finally to that of



Front Give Point

Velle sculp.



of giving point to the front the instant he is within distance to make the thrust. This he must do, directing the point to the center of the circle, which by being carried elevated a little above the level of the hand, must necessarily cause the ring to fall down to the sword mounting, provided the blade was properly directed.

The moment the point has been given, come to the *Sword arm protect*;\* check the horse and bring him to the right about in order to get on the antagonist's near fide before he can bring his own horse round; the advantages of which manœuvre will be obvious to persons acquainted with the principles of skirmishing.

Beginners are extremely apt to divide their attention in the direction of the blade, between the point and the ring, which, almost to a certainty, makes them fail in the proper aim, the sight being distracted between the two objects.

The mode that ought to be pursued, is to fix the attention entirely on the ring, and not to look in the least to the position of the blade, which will always follow the direction of the sight.

\* In an attack of cavalry, no movement can be made without being in consequence open to a retort. It therefore must be an invariable rule after making an offensive movement, to come to the protection of the part exposed thereby. If in passing your antagonist, a thrust or cut is made by you on the right, come immediately after to the position of *sword arm protect*, and look well to the rear in that direction. If the movement is made to the left, then come to the protection of the bridle arm.

Whether in encountering your enemy, or in pursuing him, observe as an invariable rule, never to allow your horse to be in a line parallel with his at the instant of attack, as it would expose your horse's head unnecessarily. Therefore in receiving your antagonist on the off side, incline your horse to the left, when within the distance of a couple of yards of each other, in order that your sword-arm may meet him in a direct line. Whereas moving parallel, your horse's head would have been the first point within reach of his sabre. Upon the same principle, when in pursuit, turn your horse in the opposite direction to that in which you come up with your enemy. It will be necessary to attend to the same mode of advancing, when running at the ring, or in giving edge.

In giving point to the left, come with your horse to the left about, and to the right about when giving to the right or front.

The rules laid down for running at the ring in one direction, hold good with respect to the others, and the practice consists in giving point against cavalry to the front, on the off and near sides. Likewise against infantry, as practised at the foot-drill, with this difference, that in place of the ring, a ball formed of canvas or cloth, and stuffed with hay, must be placed at the height required for foot practice.

APPLICATION *of the* EDGE.

PRECISION in the application of the edge is as necessary, in acting against cavalry or infantry, as of the point. It therefore is requisite to acquire correctness of execution by frequent practice, which in order to preserve the swords, must be addressed to substances of the least resistance. It will therefore be necessary to establish willow sticks lately cut, on the top of which place a turnip, or any other substance of as little resistance, and against which the edge of the sword may be directed.

It being impossible to furnish in sufficient quantities, willows of the height and size that are necessary, a machine as described in plate XXII. will be found requisite ; by means of the edge post, a twig of ten or twelve inches will be in length fully sufficient for the purpose of practice, as it is fitted into the top of the machine, which is made to sink, or rise to the degree of height required. The same range is to be allowed for this practice, as in running at the ring. The pace is to be regulated on a similar principle; first, trot ten paces with the sword sloped ; then canter, rise in the stirrups, and come to the *prepare*. When within twenty yards of the edge post, bring the sword up to the *guard*; and make cut I. on the off-side as soon as within reach of it, at the same instant protect the sword-arm, bring the horse

horse upon his haunches, and turn him to the right about.\*.

In like manner must be practised the six cuts, and the one to the rear. The former are to be applied in the directions of the off and near side in front.

Particular attention must be paid to the following instructions, relative to the mode of giving edge.

Let the blade be sharpened six inches to the point, in order that you may be able to apply it with effect, and without this precaution, it may be difficult to judge how far the edge is carried correctly.

It should be remembered that little force is requisite to produce effect from the application of the edge, if conducted with skill, and that, whether with a straight sword or scymitar blade, no cut can be made with effect or security, where the weapon does not at once free itself from the object to which it is applied; otherwise it must turn in the hand, and give a contusion rather than a cut; for which reasons those wounds are most severe, which are made nearest to the point. A swordsman cannot therefore be too accurate in judging the

\* Until greater attention is paid in the breaking and suppling of horses than is at present shewn, caution will be required in making the sharp turns pointed out in this drill practice. It is indispensably necessary to the service of a light dragoon, that his horse should be supple and upon his haunches; the principle holds good with respect to the heavy cavalry, although the same rapidity of movement and exertion is not expected from their horses.

distance within the reach of his weapon, which can alone be done by habit and strict attention.

With a scymitar, not more than four or five inches of the point should meet your adversary, and still less with a straight blade, whose construction is by no means so well calculated for extricating itself.

In coming to the position of the guard, direct the sword-hand to the antagonist's left ear, or (in drill practice) immediately to the object at which the cut is intended to be made; keeping the hand above the level of the shoulder: and *as the bilt is to be a protection for the head*, at the moment the blade is in the direction of making either a *thrust* or *cut*, it ought never to be moved from the position pointed out, when acting against cavalry; and as the antagonist changes his ground, let the sword-hand shift accordingly: But, should he get round to the rear, then of course the guard must give way to the modes of protecting in that direction.

Running at the ring, and giving edge, may be practised together with various combinations, in order to increase the difficulty of execution, and thereby render the swordsman more expert in skirmishing. This is to be done by placing edge posts at different distances on each side of the range, to which the six cuts may be applied on the right and left, whilst moving in speed to give point.

Too much attention cannot be paid in attaining perfection in the lessons of running at the ring, and giving edge

edge against infantry and cavalry ; as in these are united horsemanship, and every offensive movement, which form the basis of skirmishing.

It is not merely the ready execution of all the offensive and defensive movements of this system, as practised under a form of exercise, that will render a person a perfect swordsman. Therefore in order to become a master of the sword, it will be necessary to apply all its principles, by man opposing man, under certain limitations, in such a way as to call forth every possible exertion of skill in individuals, both in what relates to horsemanship, and the use of the weapon; for which purpose the drill instructions will extend to the attack and defence; a mode of practice the best adapted to those situations on actual service, in which soldiers are most likely to be engaged; as it obliges them to think for themselves, and to act independant of each other; which on service are, in a body of light troops, inestimable qualities. It likewise has the effect of training the horses to quit the ranks readily, and the dragoons to manage them entirely with one hand; whereas at present they generally employ both, unaccustomed as they are to manœuvre with swords drawn.

## ATTACK and DEFENCE

PRIOR to the attack and defence the positions to be opposed the guard (as held preparatory to an offensive movement) should be perfectly understood. This is to be acquired by the drill officer walking his horse round his pupil in the fixt position termed the guard, when the recruit, being stationary, will adopt the consequent positions: as, for example: Supposing the drill officer makes his approach from the rear on the near side, the position to meet this would be the *bridle-arm protect*; and as the officer advances, the blade is to be brought in a progressive degree to the *horse near side protect*; and from thence carried on to the *guard*, as the officer by going round the front arrives on the off-side. At this instant both are on the position termed the *guard*; but as the drill officer continues his round on the off-side, the dragoon will turn his body and sword-hand to the right, in proportion to the movement of the officer; and when he can no longer preserve his hand and right eye in a direct line with the left ear of his antagonist, he must drop the point in a small degree to the front, in order to come to the *sword-arm protect*, without bringing the blade round the head. From the *sword-arm protect* gradually raise the sword to the *St. George*, and continue in that position turning the body to the rear, observing the movement of the officer until he arrives again on the near side, at which time (and not before) it will be safe to drop the blade into the position of *bridle-arm protect*, from whence the lesson commenced.

From

From the foregoing example it must be obvious, that the changes of position in the recruit are movements adapted to meet the fixed guard of the drill officer, and that both the one and the other are only preparatory positions to offensive movements, whilst they afford protection at the moment.

It will now be proper to point out the application of those movements contained in the six divisions, by instructing the soldier in the principles of the attack and defence, and shewing him the different points of attack, and the retort to be made under the local situation of each movement, for which purpose he is to be seated on his horse, and to remain stationary, in order to receive the attack of the drill officer, who will ride round him making the different movements, offensive, repeating, at the same time, the positions requisite to be adopted for defence, which repetition may be omitted as soon as the eye and execution of the dragoon are sufficiently quick to render it unnecessary.

He is to be trained equally to attack, as to defend, and as soon as a squad is formed, they may be drawn up in two ranks, in order that the rear and front rank men may attack each other alternately, after which the practice will extend to the attack and defence in speed.

At the beginning the drill officer will find it difficult to enforce a correct execution of the guards and cuts, it being frequently a fault with beginners to forget the principles of drill practice, the moment the attention becomes divided; for which reason more than usual care must

must be taken, to see that there is no deviation from the system, which requires the arm to be kept perfectly straight, in order that the wrist alone may act. The edge to be correctly carried, and the protects made with the thumb so placed as to oppose the back of the blade to the movements of the antagonist. It should be an invariable rule not to suffer an adversary to disengage his blade immediately after a parry, unless it be to direct an offensive movement, in which case (except he makes a feint) by parrying in the opposite direction there is a certainty of meeting his blade.

Whenever a regiment is perfectly formed to the use of the sword, all practice in the modes of attack and defence may be executed with the flat and back of the blade in place of the edge. But in the first instance, it will be requisite for the men to be instructed to carry the edge, for which reason the blades of a corps may be preserved by appropriating a certain number of swords to be made use of alone at the drill.

If men are taught in early practice to carry correctly the edge in performing the six cuts, there is little danger of their being misled by their applying the flat of the blade in the attack, particularly as the practice they must necessarily have in running at the edge post, will be sufficient to confirm them in the means of carrying an edge whenever it is requisite to do so; however should any person be found sufficiently awkward to require his being brought back to the drill practice to become correct in giving edge, it can easily be done.

**ATTACK and DEFENCE in Line.****OFFENSIVE.**

**Cut I.** at the horse's head on the near side.

**Cut II.** at the horse's head on the off-side.

**Cut I.** at the adversary's face off side.

**Parry cut III.** by sinking the guard.

**Cut I.** at the thigh or body on the off side.

**Parry cut VI.** by the right protect.

**DEFENSIVE.**

The defence is, near side protect.

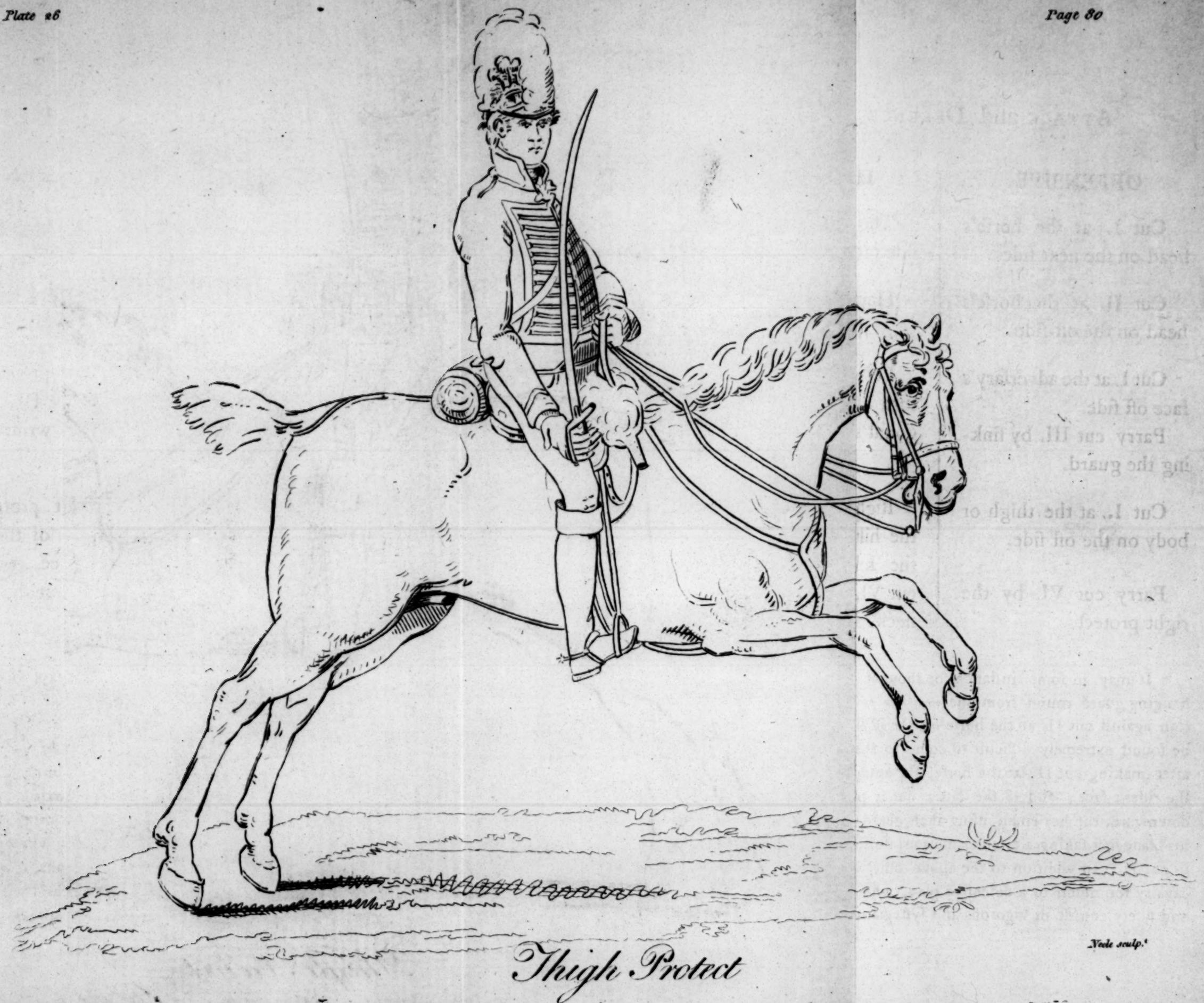
Horse, off side protect\*

Left protect, and return cut III. at the antagonist's wrist.

Right protect, resting the hilt of the sword on the knee, when return cut VI. at the adversary's neck.

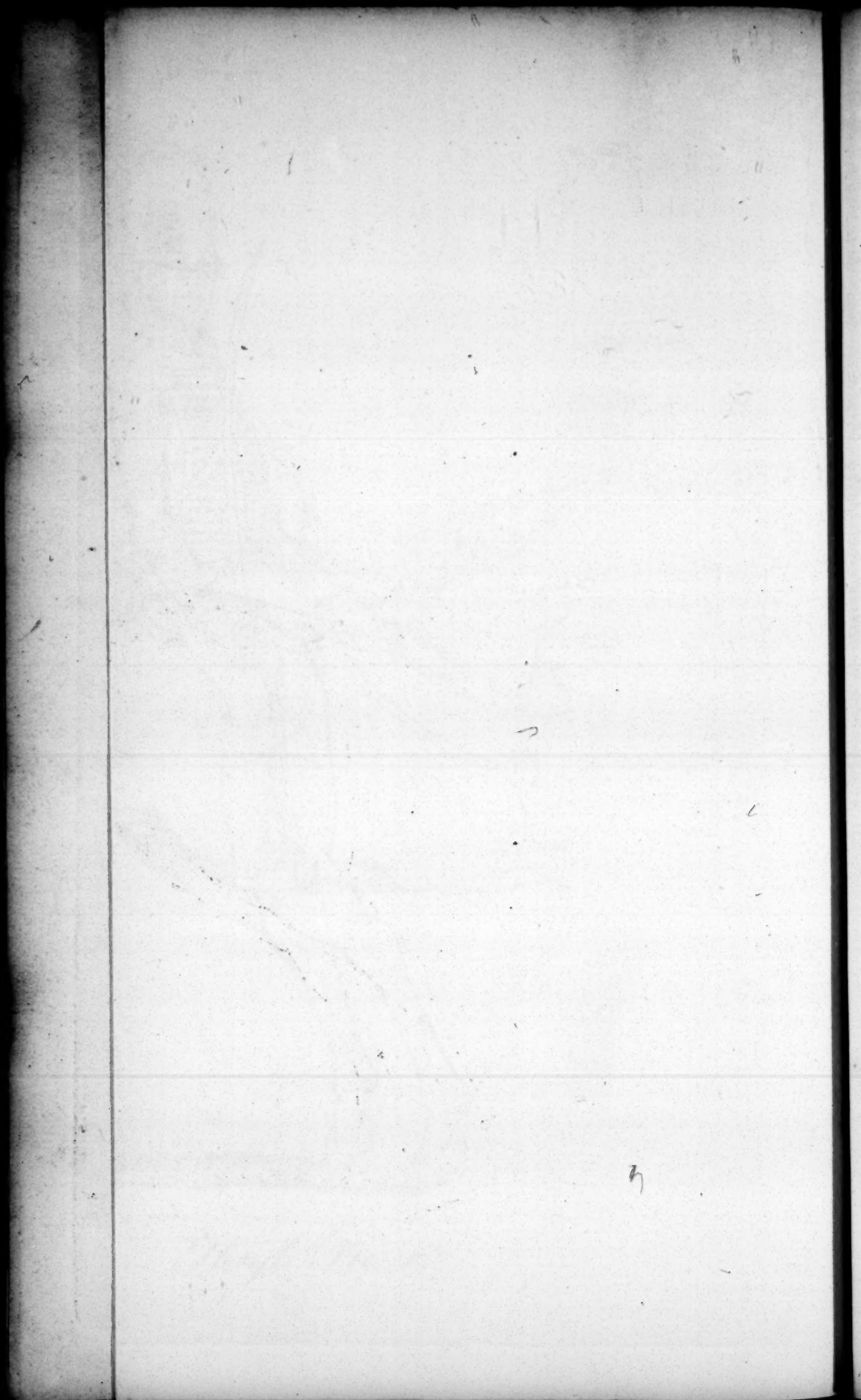
\* It may in some instances be thought expedient to carry the hanging guard round from the *near side protect* to afford a protection against cut II. at the horse on the *off side*; but it would then be found extremely difficult to come to the *left protect* in time, if after making cut II. at the horse, the antagonist should cut I. at the rider's face; and if the latter cut is parried with the point downward, the horseman using such guard cannot retort without his blade first taking a circular motion, during which he is exposed to cut II. In addition to the above objections, it would confine cavalry too much to a defensive plan, whereas their chief utility and safety consist in vigorous and systematic attack.

Make



*Thigh Protect*

*Nade sculp.*



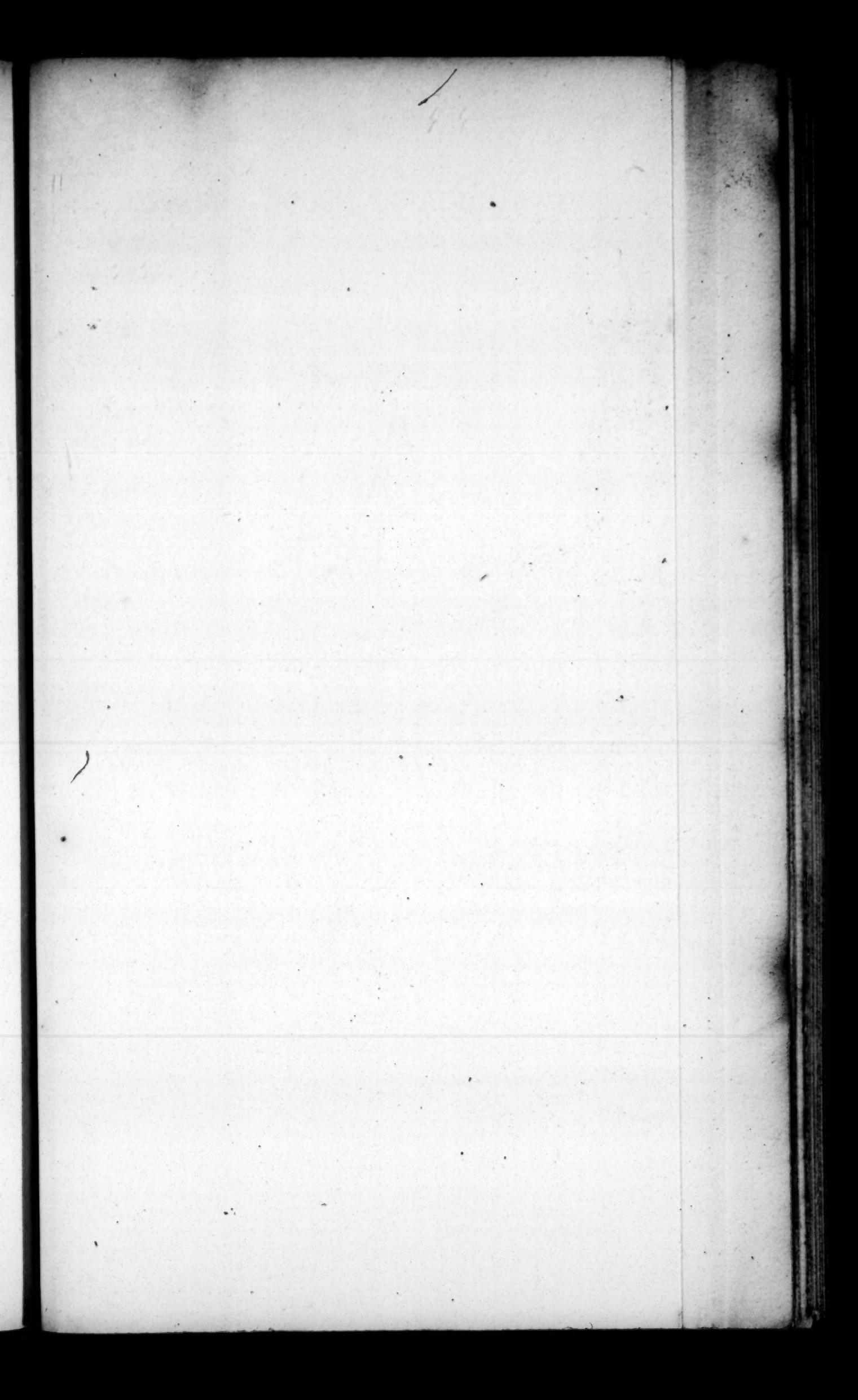




Plate 27.

*Left Parry.*

**OFFENSIVE.**

Make cut I. at the sword arm.

Cut II. at the bridle-arm from the rear.

Give point at the back, near side.

Cut I. at the back of the head, near side.

Cut II. at the face, near side.

Cut I. at the horse's head, on the near side.

**DEFENSIVE.**

Come to the sword-arm protect.

Bridle-arm protect.\*

Left parry.†

Left protect.

Right protect.

Horse near side protect, and as the adversary moves forward, return cut VI. at his sword arm, at the same time press your horse up to his near side and give him the point, by which the attack is changed, and he in his turn becomes on the defensive.

\* In changing from the sword-arm protect to the bridle-arm protect, press the horse with the left leg, which will throw his croup round, and by this means deprive your antagonist of that advantage of attacking you in the rear, which he would otherwise possess.

† Upon the first motion of giving point being made by the adversary, drop from the bridle-arm protect to the position requisite for parrying.

It is to be understood that every movement, from whichsoever quarter it may proceed, is made immediately from the position preceding it, without first coming to the guard between the motions.

### PURSUIT on the NEAR SIDE.

*To be executed first in a Walk and finally in Speed.*

#### ATTACK.

##### Guard.

Right give point at the small of the back.

Cut I. at the back of the head.

Cut II. at the face.

Cut I. at the horse's head on the near side.

#### DEFENCE.

Bridle arm protect.

Left parry.

Left protect, near side.

Right protect, near side.

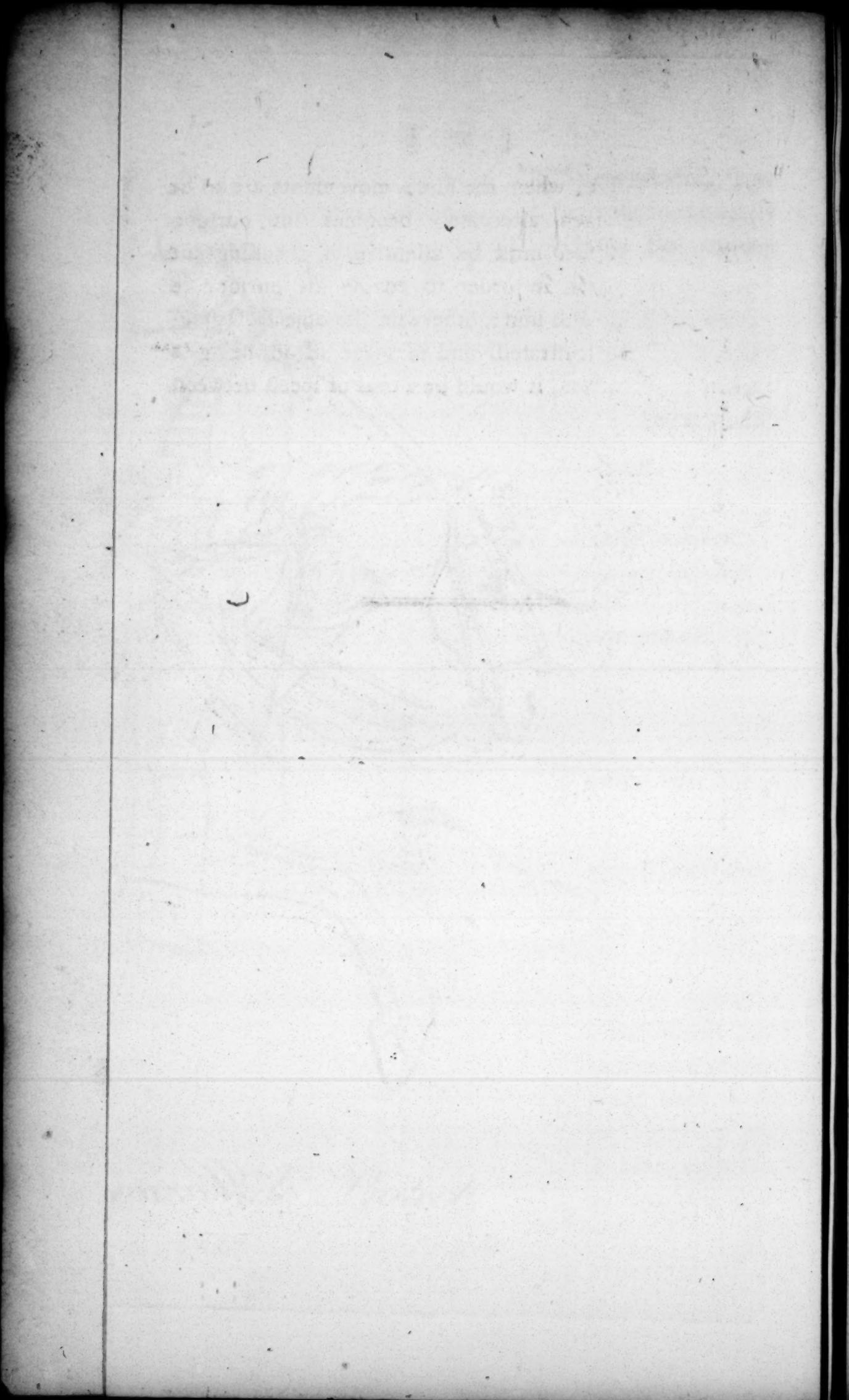
Horse near side protect.

After parrying the cut directed at the horse's head on the near side, return cut VI. at the antagonist's sword-arm, recovering your blade round the head in the first position of giving point to the front, pressing your horse at the same instant up to the adversary's near side, and give him point, which places him in his turn on



Horse near Side Protecto

*Needle sculp.*



on the defensive, when the same movements are to be repeated, as each alternately becomes the pursuer. The person pursued must be attentive in checking the pace of his horse, in order to enable his pursuer to come easily up with him; otherwise the object of practice would be frustrated, and in place of its being a lesson of instruction, it would be a trial of speed between the horses.

## PART III.

### METHOD OF INSTRUCTION IN CLASSES.

THE whole of the *Drill Instructions* are to be communicated to each person of the squad individually, for which reason it is necessary to establish *Classes*, and *Degrees of progress in each Class*, into which men are to be removed according to the proficiency they make in the exercise.

There are to be three classes, and in each class three degrees of progress.

THE FIRST (or youngest) CLASS comprises the instructions necessary for the foot drill, which are divided as follows:

*1st Degree.* The Cuts.

*2d Degree.* The guards and cuts performed according to drill practice.

THAT

3d

**3d Degree.** The sword exercise performed by word of command and fleugelman.

---

**THE SECOND CLASS** directs the exercise on horse-back.

**1st Degree** Consists in the opening of ranks, taking distance of files, and performing the sword exercise in line.

**2d Degree.** The exercise moving in circle.

**3d Degree.** The exercise performed in speed.

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**THE THIRD CLASS** is a general application of the whole system.

**1st Degree.** Running at the ring, and giving edge.

**2d Degree.** The attack and defence in line.

**3d Degree.** The attack and defence in speed.

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#### DIRECTIONS to be observed with respect to the DRILLS,

The most active men, and best riders of a regiment, are to be instructed in the sword exercise, without regard to their being non-commissioned officers or not.

As in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> degree of the first class, instruction is to be given individually to each person of the squad; the squads are never to exceed in number six men; but in order that a regiment may be formed with the least delay, squad officers must be provided in proportion to the exertion intended, which may be readily done by means of keeping a constant succession in the degrees of the first class, upon the principle of compound multiplication.

The following mode of employing *three men of a squad*, the most forward in each degree, is therefore to be followed.

The *first man of a squad*, who acquires a correct execution of the six cuts, is to be immediately appointed to begin the instruction of *three others of the regiment*.

*The second man to instruct two.*

*The third man to instruct one.*

They are to be kept thus employed until the remaining *three* men of their original squad are completed in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree; the whole six (being the original squad) will then be removed to the degree following, leaving six others of their own training far advanced in their knowledge of the six cuts, and among whom one man will always be found capable of instructing the rest of the squad.

Upon

Upon the same principle are the 2d and 3d degrees of instruction to be conveyed, by which means the *three men most advanced* of each degree will be constantly bringing forward double their number, whilst the *awkward men* of their respective squads are attaining the same degree of knowledge with themselves.

A regiment having the foundation of *ten formed swordsmen* will enter on the instruction of *sixty*, which sixty men, according to the aforesaid system of progressive drilling, will have instructed the like number by the time they are themselves required to mount.

The instructions contained in the first class must be persevered in with as little interruption as possible; the rudiments being easily forgotten if not closely attended to; for which reason, men of the *first class* should be exempted from all duties of *fatigue* and *drill*, which might otherwise interfere with their hours of practice.

The same unremitting attention is not necessary with respect to the other classes.

Ten days will complete men in the *first class*—allowing them to be drilled morning and evening, two hours each time.

The second class will require a fortnight to perfect them for the third class, adhering to three hours drill per day.

The third class should be perfectly completed in a fortnight more, by two hours drill per day only.

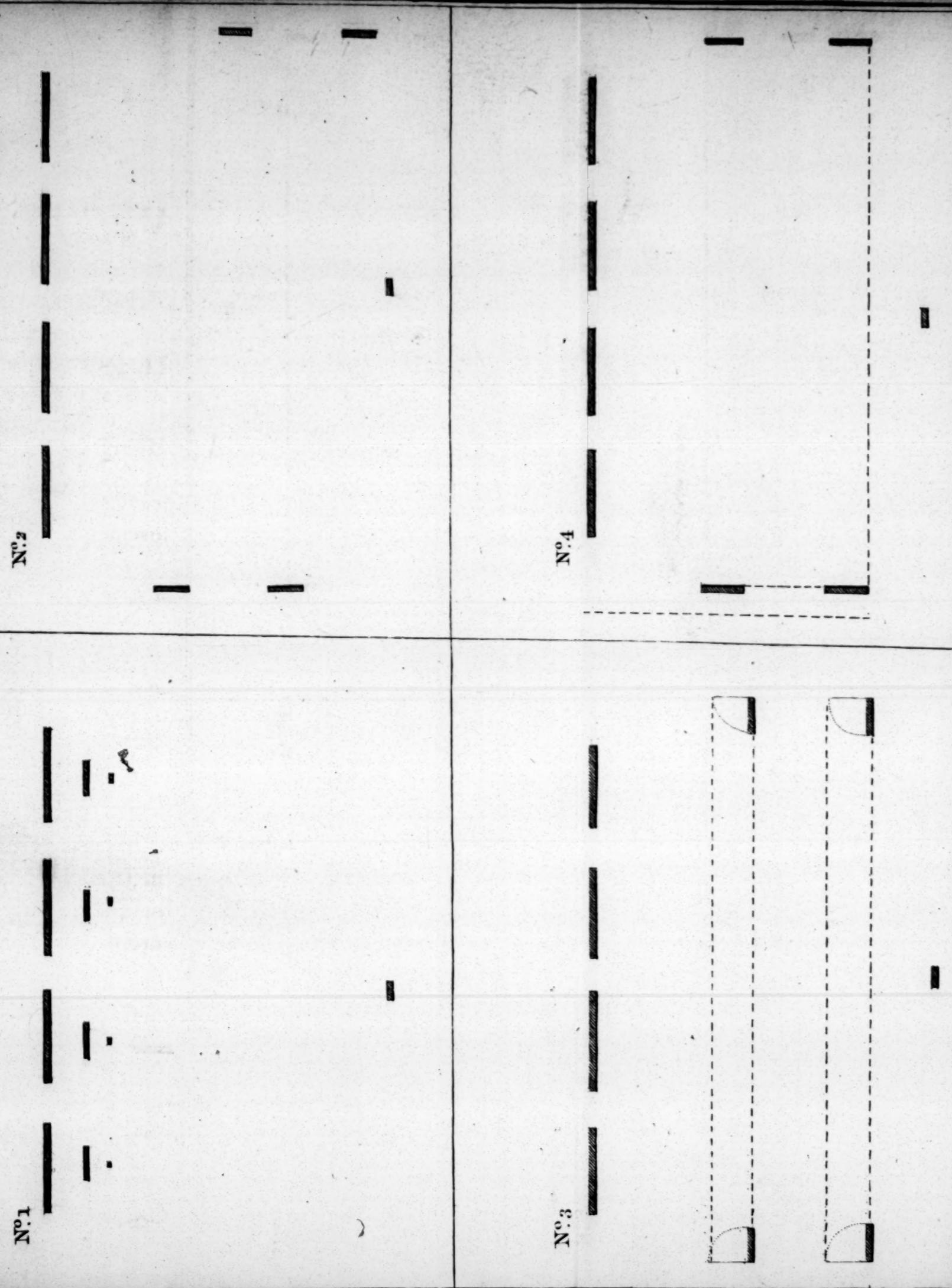
**PART IV.****REVIEW EXERCISE.**

**A**T a review or inspection of a regiment of cavalry, the exercise of the sword is (after the regiment has marched past and formed) to precede the evolutions, and is comprised in the following movements.

- I. *The Six Divisions performed in Line.*
  - II. *The Six Divisions in Speed.*
  - III. *The Attack and Defence in Line.*
  - IV. *The Attack and Defence in Speed.*
- 

THE sword exercise performed in line, will be executed by the whole regiment, and the other movements by only one division from each squadron.

I. *The*



### EXPLANATORY PLATE

N°1

The Reg't in line with the divisions formed in front of their respective Squadrons.

N°2

The Divisions formed upon the flanks of the Reg't in order to perform the Manoeuvre in Spread.

N°3

The Divisions wheel inwards forming two Lines. The dots represent the Front being extended, and ranks opened, for the attack, and defence in line.

N°4

The divisions formed for attack, & defence in Spread. The dotted line represents the tilting off in the attack.

277 DIVISIONS & SPEED

~~adT. amelius dico vnguineas sive maledicti quo dicit  
one man's falsehood another's ignorance of his own country~~

## I. *The SIX DIVISIONS performed in LINE.*

IT is not necessary herein to specify the words of command, requisite to be given in order to put a regiment through the exercise; as the opening of ranks, and doubling of files, are according to the mode laid down in the drill practice, and the whole being executed by fleugelman, the commanding officer will have only to particularize each division of movement, after which he will form up the doubling files, and close ranks.

## II. *The SIX DIVISIONS in SPEED.*

Words of Command.  
*Divisions, to the front form.*

*March.*

The ranks being closed, the divisions are to be formed by those men who are previously appointed in each squadron, moving forward on the *march*, forming at three horses lengths in front of their respective squadrons, and dressing by the right.

In order to perform the exercise in speed, it will be requisite to form the four divisions in two lines on each flank of the regiment, with the whole fronting inwards. The two divisions of the left wing will be drawn up opposite to the intervals of the divisions upon the right, and

and one subaltern will accompany each division. The range between the two lines should not be less than one hundred and fifty yards, and the distances of the divisions sufficiently great, to guard against any possibility of the opposing parties riding against each other.

**Words of Command.**

*Ranks by threes wheel outwards.*

*March.*

The divisions being formed in front of the line and told off in ranks by threes, the commanding officer will direct them to wheel outwards, and upon the word *march*, the two divisions of the right wing will wheel to the right, and those of the left in the opposite direction. As soon as they

*Halt, Dress.*

*March.*

*Trot.*

are halted, they will again get the words *march* and *trot*, on which they will trot off beyond the flanks of the regiment, and wheel into their new alinement.

*As each division arrives on its ground, it is to halt, and wait for the commanding officer's order to*

*Wheel up.*

*When thus formed, the division of the third squadron will be opposite the interval of the two right divisions, with the fourth division upon its left.*

*Halt, Dress.*

*On*

Words of Command.

*Perform the six divisions of movements in speed.*

On receiving the caution to perform in speed, the right and left file of the front rank will move forwards a horse's length in front of their respective divisions, to be in readiness to spring forward upon the division being specified \*; at the same time the flanks are to be kept complete, by passing from the center of the rank.

*First Division.*

The advanced files of each division will have their horses well in hand, and at the word *Division*, move forward at an easy gallop, increasing their speed gradually: each file is to direct his horse in a right line to the front. Those of the right wing, on arriving at the extremity of the range, will form to the rear of the third and fourth divisions, whilst those of the left wing will form in the intervals; by which means, when the exercise is completed, the four divisions will be immediately opposite each other †.

\* As the divisions are to be performed in rotation, the trumpet may be substituted for the word of command.

† The officers will accompany the last file of their divisions upon all occasions.

Attention

Words of Command.

Attention must be paid to regulate the time requisite between each motion, according to the extent of ground, as every division of movement should begin and conclude at the opposite extremity of the range.

The whole are executed according to the directions given for performing the first division.

**III. The ATTACK and DEFENCE in LINE.**

*Divisions,  
Wheel inwards,*

As soon as the sword exercise has been performed in speed, the commanding officer will wheel the divisions inwards, in order to attack and defend in line.

*March.*

On the word *March*, the divisions will wheel, forming two lines fronting the general; the dressing will finally be by the right, it will then be requisite to extend the front of each division for the purpose of giving the necessary distance between the files; therefore

*Halt, Dress.*

Words of Command.

*To the center extend  
your front.*

*March.*

fore on being directed to extend the front, the inner flank files will turn their horses fronting inwards and on the word *March*, move forward at an easy gallop, to the center of the range, and instantly form up, the files taking their distance from the standing flank; the rear rank men will keep with their front files, and cover them exactly when formed: The divisions are to dress by the right, forming two lines, one in the rear of the other.

*Rear ranks by files,  
to the right about  
turn.*

*March.*

The rear rank will be put to the right about in order to take the distance of four horses lengths to the rear.

*Forwards,  
Halt, front.*

The rear files will preserve their distances in marching to the rear, so as to cover their front rank men when fronted.

*Attack and defence of  
the front line.*

From this period the second line is to stand fast till the front has gone through the whole attack and defence, and is again wheeled back to its former ground.

The

Words of Command.

*Rear ranks,  
March.*

The rear rank will be in readiness to move forward; and on the word *march* being given will advance in line at a walk, directing their horses to the near side of their front rank men.

*Prepare to guard.*

The whole of both ranks will come to the *prepare*, on receiving the word to do so from the commanding officer, who will give it when within the distance of six yards from each other, and they are to be brought immediately afterwards to the *guards* applicable to their respective situations.

*Guard.*

On being ordered to guard, the rear rank will guard to the front, and the front files come to the protection of their bridle arms.—The attack is to commence as in pursuit, by the rear rank giving point on the near side, when they will execute the different offensive and defensive movements pointed out in drill practice for the near side, and likewise those of the off-side, as far as cut I.\* at the sword-arm, which being par-

\* See page 80.

Words of Command.

ried, cut VI. is to be returned at the sword-arm of the rear files, who are to retire guarding themselves in that direction, at the distance of a horse's length, before they slope swords. When the rear rank arrives on its former ground, it will halt, and wait for the word to come about.

*Files about\*.*

Both ranks will go to the right about, at which time the front files will face each other.

*Front rank,  
March.*

The front rank will move to the attack of their rear rank men, directing their horses to the off side.

*Prepare to Guard.  
Guard.*

At the distance pointed out in the former attack, both ranks will be brought to the *prepare to guard*, and then the *Guard*.

The attacking of the rear rank is to commence with cut II. at the horse's head on the off side, when all the movements in which they have already been instructed, are to be correctly executed, con-

\* By single files to the right about.

Words of Command.

cluding with making cut I. on the near side at the horse, and receiving cut VI. at the sword-arm. The front rank will then retire guarding the sword-arm till at the distance of a horse's length, when they will come to the position of slope swords, and halt as soon as arrived on their ground.

*Rear rank take close order.*

*March.*

The attack and defence of the first line being ended, the rear rank will be moved up, and the files closed.

*Close your files.*

*March.*

The divisions will close to their outward flanks, in order to be wheeled up to their former front.

*Threes about,  
Wheel outwards.*

*March.*

*Halt, Front.*

The second line is in its turn to attack and defend, which being done, the files are to be closed, the divisions wheeled up on their own ground and fronted, dressing by those of the first line, where they will be ready to commence their attack in speed.

#### IV. *The ATTACK and DEFENCE in SPEED.*

THE attack and defence in speed will consist of the divisions filing successively past the general; the front and rear files attacking and defending alternately, which having done, they will return by the rear of the regiment to their places in squadron.

Words of Command.

ON receiving the order to attack and defend in speed, the first division of the right wing will file from its left by two's, the rear file commencing the attack on the front file, according to the mode pointed out in drill practice.

*Right wing, by your  
left attack and de-  
fend.*

*March.*

They are to move at a pace rather exceeding half speed, taking care to ride in a right line to the opposite end of the range, where the attack will cease; their swords are immediately to be floped, the files to dress, and at a gentle trot wheel round the right flank of the regiment to their places in squadron. The files will succeed

H

each

Words of Command.

*Left wing, by your right attack and defend.*

*March.*

each other at the distance of five horses lengths, till both divisions of the right wing have successively rode past the General.

Attention must be paid, that they all move off from the same ground which is pointed out by the leading files.

The divisions of the left wing will file off from the right, and are in their turn to observe the rules laid down for the divisions preceding, with this difference, that as their course is to be left, they will wheel round the left wing of the regiment to their places in squadron.

J. G. L. M.

F I N I S.



